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INSIDE

LOCAL



U.S. Coast Guard cutter Washington visits the Pika Festival.

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NATION



Former Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., holding back tears, pleads guilty.

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LIFE & STYLE



British music put on a brash show at the Brit Awards.

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'True value of land rests on repeal of Article 12' **PAGE 2**
Inos says Cabinet changes ahead. **PAGE 3**

AS INOS ADMINISTRATION BUCKLES DOWN TO WORK

'Sequestration' could cut millions in funds for NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Millions in federal funds that the CNMI depends on for health, education, other programs, and jobs are at risk if "sequestration"—a series of automatic, across-the-board cuts to U.S. government agencies totaling \$1.2 trillion over 10 years—takes effect on March 1, posing quite a challenge to the three-day-old Inos administration.

Simply put, budgets of most federal government programs and agencies, some of which provide funding to CNMI programs, will shrink by Friday next week.

For example, the CNMI could lose more than \$1.65 million in Title I grant to its education district, and over \$256,000 in "Idea Special Education" grants.

A U.S. House Appropriations Committee Democrats report on Feb. 13 also estimates that the CNMI faces a loss of

» Kilili: 9 pct. cut for law enforcement, education, health, other programs

more than \$101,000 in early child-care assistance, assuming a 5.3-percent reduction.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that the potential impact on the CNMI could involve "a few million dollars"—money that the islands cannot afford to lose at this time.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget recently calculated that sequestration will require an annual reduction

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Senate deals with vacancy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate will not only reorganize today to formally elect a new president, vice president, and floor leader but it also has to deal with a vacancy left by now Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, a former Senate president from Tinian. Moreover, if Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) is convicted of charges related to smuggling of endangered fruit bats, there will be two vacancies in the nine-member Senate.

Acting president Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), who will become president today, said yesterday that it will be up

See VACANCY on **Page 4**



FIRST CABINET MEETING

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, followed by Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, emerges from the Emergency Operations Center building on Capitol Hill where they convened a first Cabinet meeting yesterday, a day after they were sworn into office after former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned. Inos asked agencies to submit accomplishment reports and their goals for the next year, meet the Feb. 28 deadline to submit their proposed budgets, and prepare for possible federal funding cuts come March 1.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on **Page 3**

Many hospital staff without new contracts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Many employees of the Commonwealth Health Center are working without new employment contracts—a concern that worries these affected employees, according to Anthony Raho, representative of the hospital staff on the board of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"There are lots of questions from

staff about their contracts. They're all up in the air. And it sounds to me that no communication is coming from the administration about the status of these contracts. Almost everybody is working on a contract that already expired over a year ago!" Raho said during last week's daylong board meeting.

Acknowledging the many challenges and problems facing the corporation,

See CONTRACTS on **Page 4**

MORE INSIDE

■ Preparations are now underway for this year's kite festival. **PAGE 7**

■ The Tinian JROTC tops the statewide JLAB. **PAGE 8**

■ Mayor renews push for a ferry between Saipan, Tinian. **PAGE 9**



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‘True value of land in the NMII rests on repeal of Article 12’

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Repealing the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution would maximize the “true value” of lands in the Commonwealth, according to the newly elected chairman of the Citizens for Change of Article 12.

Attorney Vincent J. Seman said the focus on Article 12 talks should not be on the ability to sell one’s land but the ability to maximize the value of one’s land, which is being “greatly hampered” by this provision.

“Everyone’s fixed at the argument that we’re all going to end up selling all our land. Why can’t we have the ability to maximize the use of the land without having to lose it?” he asked.

Seman is now at the helm of CCART12, a group of concerned citizens pushing for the abolition of Article 12. This constitutional provision restricts landownership in the CNMI only to persons of Northern Marianas descent or NMDs.

Seman is joined by vice chair Alex Sablan and secretary Frica Pangelinan under CCART12’s new leadership.

In an interview, Seman said the group’s “ultimate objective” is to give voters in the CNMI a chance to vote on the issue by having a legislative initiative on Article 12 placed on the ballot in the next election.

Seman said the group is “more hopeful” that they can work with the 18th Legislature on getting approved an initiative similar to what House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero introduced in the 17th Legislature.

It will be recalled that the Senate during the 17th Legislature decided in May not to place the legislative initiative in the Nov. 6 ballot.

Seman said the group has until middle of next year to get the initiative passed by the Legislature before it is certified by the Commonwealth Election Com-

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Inos says Cabinet changes ahead

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Newly installed Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that there will be changes in the Cabinet, which is currently under performance review. The announcements will come at a later date, however. As with any administration and in any jurisdiction, the chief executive gets to select his own Cabinet.

At the same time, Inos said former governor Benigno R. Fitial's nominations submitted to the Senate for their advice and consent remains the property of the Senate unless withdrawn by the administration.

Inos said the Senate will be "busy hearing appointees because we will start filling these vacancies."

Among Fitial's nominations that are pending Senate confirmation include Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos to serve as associate justice of the NMI Supreme Court and Pete Itibus as Department of Public Lands secretary.

While he could change Cabinet secretaries and commissioners, Inos said positions below that such as deputy commissioners will be up to the agency heads.

Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U.



Inos

Hofschneider convened Cabinet secretaries and directors for the first time yesterday at the Emergency Operations Center on Capitol Hill.

Both were sworn in on Wednesday, hours after Fitial resigned barely two weeks before the start of his impeachment trial. The House impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

Attorney General Patrick San Nicolas, among those in attendance, told reporters that the purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Cabinet members to the new lieutenant governor

and Hofschneider.

Minutes later, this was echoed by the new governor when he and Hofschneider emerged from the building.

Inos and Hofschneider met not only with department heads but also division directors and special assistants, something that the governor wants to do at least every other month.

The governor said they asked for reports from each agency covering the last 12 months,

listing their accomplishments as well as their goals for the next year to "establish a baseline performance."

He said the administration will prioritize projects.

"So I think we're off to a good start," he said, adding that the only thing he now has to get used to is being called "governor." He said when some people called him such, he didn't realize they were calling him but when he's called "L.T., he responds.

Inos, the lieutenant governor during most of Fitial's term as governor, said U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula was among the first to congratulate him on his new post. He said his office will also be officially notifying regional and national governors about the change in leadership in the CNMI.

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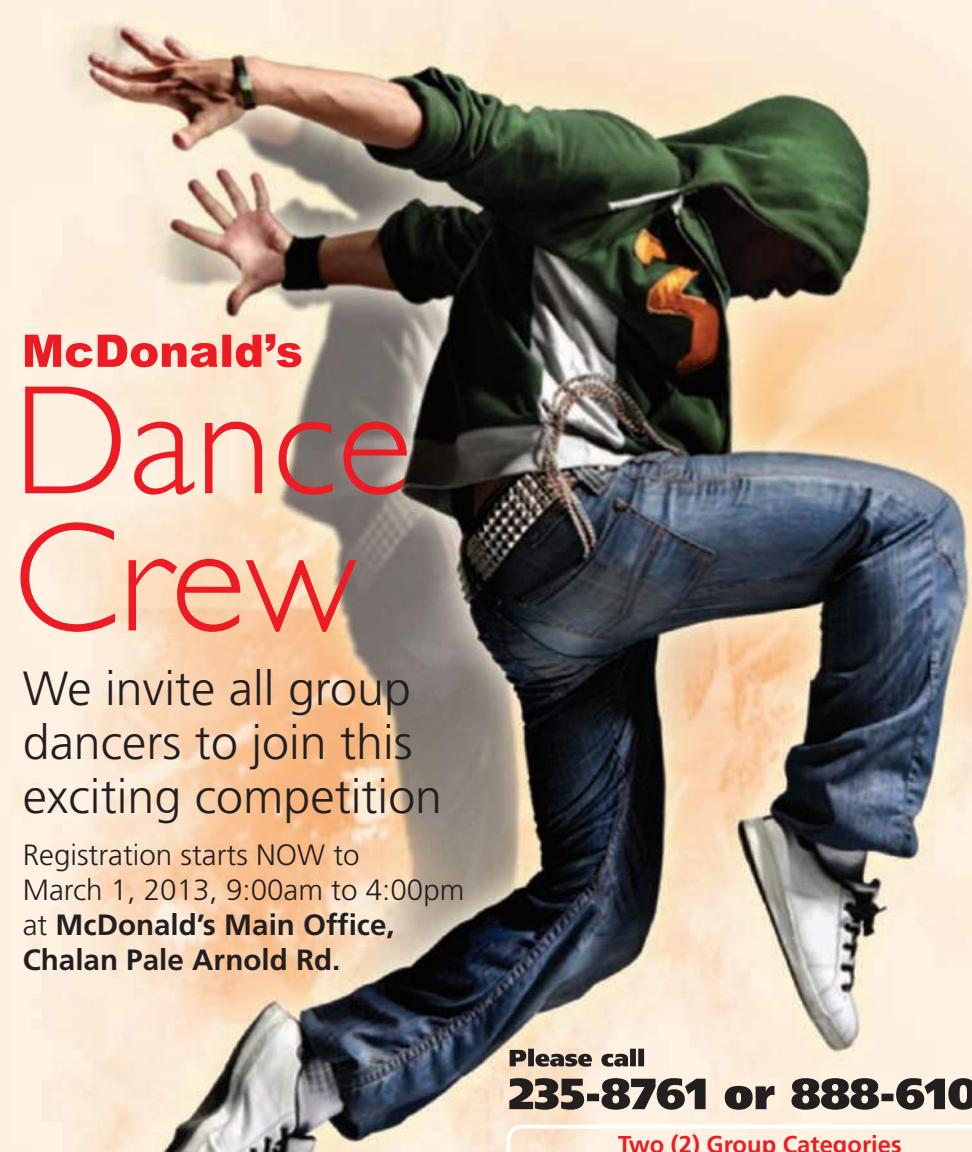
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Feb. 28 deadline for agency budget submissions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Special assistant for management and budget Virginia Villagomez gave government expenditure authorities up to Feb. 28 to submit their proposed budget and spending plans for fiscal year 2014. The 2014 budget or projected

LAND

From Page 2

mission for inclusion in the November 2014 ballots.

"If we are successful in getting the initiative passed, then definitely our

revenues available for government operations will remain at \$114 million, just like the fiscal year 2013 level.

The Feb. 28 agency deadline will give the Office of Management and Budget ample time to prepare the administration's proposed budget, which must be submitted to the Legislature by April 1.

main focus is raising voter awareness. I know that we have a lot of people out there who are in support of doing away with Article 12—not just on Saipan but probably stronger support on Rota and Tinian where times are actually more dire," he said.

Sablan urged the public to encourage

Villagomez said the CNMI's tourism economy is "once again growing with positive activities during the first quarter of fiscal year 2013."

"Our current level will change if the trend of activities similar to the first quarter is not seen in the projected subsequent months," she said in a memo to department and activity heads, autono-

mous and semi-autonomous agencies, and federal programs.

She reminded agencies to learn to rebuild what is slowly emerging positively in the CNMI's favor.

"We must continue to exercise prudent fiscal responsibility by safeguarding the resources we anticipate to collect and reviving our government's ability to maintain efficient public health, safety, and welfare programs that are affordable," she added.

Villagomez also urged agencies to formulate their budget and spending plans with the concept of rightsizing areas of operations that do not affect delivery of basic public services.

"The outcome of your submission should match the efficiency and effectiveness of your program deliveries. Programs that have similar goals and objectives should be consolidated and/or eliminated. Human resources that can be shifted to other departments or agencies should be realigned during this budget submission," she added.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, during his and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider's first meeting with Cabinet secretaries and directors yesterday, also reminded

agencies about the Feb. 28 deadline for submitting their budget proposals.

Inos, who earlier said that the proposed budget for 2014 will remain at \$114 million, said government work hours will still be 80 hours biweekly but asked agencies to live within their means.

Villagomez, in her budget call memo, said agencies should seek OMB's guidance to ensure that the employer's contribution is budgeted for those employees who opted to stay in the defined benefit or defined contribution plans.

In addition, under the "all others" category, each department and agency shall include a budget item for "utilities."

Villagomez said OMB will also be making some changes to the way the office submits the budget to the Legislature, to inform lawmakers and the public about what the agencies are and their role as a department or agency of the government.

She asked agencies to include a brief description of their program, goals and objectives, a complete justification of each budgeted category, their department's accomplishments in 2012 and their anticipated accomplishments in 2013 and 2014.

Fiscal year 2014 runs from Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Attorney Vincent Seman, left, and Alex Sablan are chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the group Citizens for Change of Article 12 or CCART12, a group of concerned citizens advocating for the repeal of the constitutional provision that restricts land ownership in the CNMI only to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

FUNDS

From Page 1

of roughly 5 percent for nondefense programs and roughly 8 percent for defense programs.

But Sablan said given that these cuts must be achieved over only seven months instead of 12, the effective percentage reductions will be approximately 9 percent for nondefense programs and 13 percent for defense programs.

"These large and arbitrary cuts will have severe impacts across the government. ... We are looking at a 9-percent cut to federal funding for law enforcement, education, health and other programs the Northern Mariana Islands depend on," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that former Assistant Secretary of Interior Anthony Babauta "successfully shielded huge reduction of funds for the Office of Insular Affairs from the sequester."

Newly installed Gov. Eloy S. Inos, along with Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider, said yesterday that the administration is preparing for sequestration's impact on the CNMI, which they say could lead to temporary job loss and program funding cuts unless they are able to "cushion the blow" by reprogramming funds and other plans.

But Inos also recognizes that the clock is ticking to come up with an immediate solution because of the March 1 effective date of sequestration unless the U.S. Congress does something to avert it.

Inos, who oversaw finances when he

was lieutenant governor under the Fitial administration, said he had tasked the grants management office to do a quick inventory of all the grant funds that the CNMI has, the number of people employed using those funds, and the projects that are at risk.

"If their funding comes to a screeching halt, then we need to have some alternative plans to make sure that at least they carry out for a brief period of time until we find a solution," he told reporters after he and Hofsneider emerged from their first meeting with Cabinet secretaries and agency directors at the Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill yesterday.

Inos said when they figure out the services that could be compromised, they will be able to determine the amount they need to reprogram, if any.

"We just have to be prepared. We don't want to have a situation where people all of a sudden will be off the payroll because there's no more funding. We need to do proper transition planning and so forth so that it's not going to be a shock to these folks," he added.

The U.S. Congress put off the sequester until March 1 instead of Jan. 1 as part of a last-minute fiscal cliff deal.

More than \$500 billion will be cut from the Department of Defense and other national security agencies.

The rest is cut on the domestic side including national parks, federal courts, the FBI, food inspections and housing aid.

Rebalance

According to Department of Defense officials, the sequestration would pre-

vent the department from mobilizing forces in a way that ensures continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

At a Feb. 13 committee hearing by the House Armed Services Committee on the impacts of sequestration on defense spending, Deputy Secretary Ashton Carter said the sequester would also hamper U.S. efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery. He said the Asia-Pacific region has thrived for more than 70 years and is full of many important trading partners.

Gen. James Amos, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, also weighed in, saying the Marines remain committed to going to Guam and reducing its presence in Okinawa. He noted, however, that the impact of sequestration on the Pacific realignments would be significant.

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) said it is incumbent on Congress to act now to find a balanced and comprehensive solution to prevent a full sequester from occurring. "Although it remains unclear what the exact impact would be, sequestration would impact the implementation of the military buildup [in] Guam."

"It is important to note that sequestration would affect all government spending, including domestic discretionary spending, with 60 percent of the cuts absorbed by DoD alone. These deep cuts would interrupt government operations and have adverse implications for federal civilian employees," Bordallo said. "It is clear...that sequestration would have lasting effects on the readiness of our Armed Forces."

ious and semi-autonomous agencies, and federal programs.

She reminded agencies to learn to rebuild what is slowly emerging positively in the CNMI's favor.

"We must continue to exercise prudent fiscal responsibility by safeguarding the resources we anticipate to collect and reviving our government's ability to maintain efficient public health, safety, and welfare programs that are affordable," she added.

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"The outcome of your submission should match the efficiency and effectiveness of your program deliveries. Programs that have similar goals and objectives should be consolidated and/or eliminated. Human resources that can be shifted to other departments or agencies should be realigned during this budget submission," she added.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, during his and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider's first meeting with Cabinet secretaries and directors yesterday, also reminded

we still need a formal contract."

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments yesterday from corporation COO Esther Muña but she has yet to respond as of press time.

At the meeting, however, Muña said one of the factors delaying the issuance of new contracts is the housing allowance issue.

She said the corporation has already implemented some salary adjustments for physicians and other clinical staff (as stipulated in their new contracts) that moved the housing benefit to their salary base.

"So that's something we're doing now upon renewal of contracts. We adjust salaries, but we have yet to include the nurses because we're still working on their salary scale," said Muña.

In working out the inclusion of housing benefits to an employee's salary base, Muña said the management has to consider local hires to prevent disparity among employees.

The housing allowance—\$600 a month for unmarried employees and \$800 for those with families—is only provided to employees who were hired from outside the CNMI. This benefit is not available to locally hired employees.

The corporation is behind in paying for this allowance since July 2012. An estimated 130-plus personnel receive this perk.

VACANCY

From Page 1

to the new governor to fill the Senate vacancy.

He said if it were up to him, he would like the governor to "appoint the next in line as soon as possible." There isn't a need for special election because Hofsneider's term at the Senate was already more than halfway over when he became lieutenant governor on Wednesday.

Moreover, if and when Ayuyu is convicted, the governor also has to appoint a losing senatorial candidate from Rota. At this time, however, it's not clear whether the losing candidate to be appointed should be from the time Ayuyu was elected in 2010 or during

the last election in 2012, when former Senate president Paul Manglona was defeated by now Senate floor leader Victor Hocog (R-Rota).

Torres said the Senate "will cross the bridge when we get there."

Torres said senators look forward to a better working relationship with the House and the administration. He said there will continue to be a check-and-balance.

In today's 2pm Senate session, senators are also expected to formally elect Hocog as the new vice president, and Sen. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) as the new floor leader.

Within hours of Fitial's resignation as governor on Wednesday, Hofsneider had to also turn in his resignation as senator to become the new lieutenant governor.

'Ice' suspect seeks looser restrictions on movement

»Defendant wants monitoring bracelet removed so he could go fishing

A co-defendant of a Corrections officer in a case of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice" has asked the federal court to remove his monitoring bracelet so he could go fishing and earn some money.

Vicente Aldan Sablan, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to modify his release conditions so he could go fishing due to a lack of income.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross

K. Naughton, counsel for the U.S. government, agreed to the modification.

In its order setting the conditions for his release, the court directed Sablan, also known as Ben Seven, to wear the monitoring bracelet so that he could be easily traced. Sablan is also required to obey a curfew every day from 6pm to 6am.

Since the time of the order in September 2012, Smith said that Sablan has diligently worn a monitoring bracelet and complied with the curfew.

Smith said that Sablan seeks the removal of the bracelet as well as periodic flexibility with his curfew so that he could go fishing and provide for his family.

If the court agrees to the

changes in Sablan's release condition, Smith promises to inform the U.S. Probation Office before Sablan leaves his residence and to provide information as to his activities outside the house and each time before he goes fishing outside of curfew hours.

Sablan and Falig were among nine persons arrested in August 2012 by combined federal and local enforcers during operations against "ice" distribution.

The indictment charged Sablan and Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig Jr. with conspiracy to distribute "ice" and distribution of "ice."

Sablan signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Woman sues resort for fall from chair

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman is claiming injuries after falling off a chair at a wedding reception in 2011 and is now suing the resort where the incident occurred.

Janice Ada Tenorio, through counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, is suing Saipan Laulau Development Inc., owner of Laolao Bay Golf and Resort, for negligence, and violation of the Consumer Protection Act. Her husband, Raymond Sablan Tenorio, is also suing the resort for loss of consortium.

The Tenorio couple is seeking unspecified damages for loss of consortium, medical care and expenses, pain and suffering, and for emotional distress and mental anguish.

Saipan Tribune contacted Laolao Bay Golf and Resort yesterday but no one was avail-

able to comment.

Torres stated in the complaint that, on Dec. 30, 2011, his client was sitting on a plastic white chair at a wedding reception at the resort when the chair suddenly broke, causing her to fall to the floor.

"Janice fell directly flat on her butt and suffered injuries," Torres said.

The lawyer said the resort has a duty to reasonably ensure that all anticipated and known areas where customers and guests would use during the reception, including the chairs, were free from unreasonable risks of harm and to provide adequate warnings and safety notices where danger exists.

"Defendant breached that duty when the white plastic chair was unreliable, unsteady, and dangerous for such persons such as plaintiff," Torres said.

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Man gets 5 years in prison for sex trafficking conspiracy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of two defendants in a sex trafficking case was slapped with a five-year prison sentence on Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

After serving his 60-month sentence, Yanchun Li will be turned over to an immigration official for removal proceedings, according to Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

If deportation fails to occur, Li will be required to immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin three years of supervised release.

Li was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and pay \$100 special court assessment fee. He and

co-defendant Wei Lin were also required to pay restitution to three victims in the amount of \$11,615, \$13,570, and \$21,730.

Li was immediately remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe recommended a 60-month prison sentence for Li. Defense counsel Mark Scoggins recommended 27 months.

Scoggins stated that, like many others, Li came to the CNMI from China after being promised that he will be given a U.S. immigration status if he could get to Saipan prior to federalization of local immigration.

Scoggins said his client was lured to the CNMI through false promises that he could work and

be given U.S. immigration status prior to federalization.

The defense counsel pointed out that Li was not part of the inner circle of conspirators in the offense.

Scoggins objected to the presentence investigation report that included Li among the list of persons who "monitored" the victims.

"The evidence shows that Mr. Li was a driver and nothing more," Scoggins said in court papers.

In the U.S. government's position, Backe said that Li being a mere driver for the organization and his allegedly limited knowledge of Lin's activities do not entitle him to a "minimal participant" role reduction.

"He transported the victims

to and from the commercial sex acts—the very purpose of the sex trafficking conspiracy," Backe said in court documents.

The prosecutor said Li admitted he knew Lin had confiscated the women's passports and controlled them through debt, yet he transported them anyway.

Backe also disclosed that Li has not cooperated as required under his plea agreement.

The indictment charged Li and Lin with one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and to benefit financially from a sex trafficking venture; three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion; and one count of financially benefiting from a sex trafficking venture.

Under the scheme, women from China were lured to Saipan on false promises of jobs and then forced into prostitution once they got on the island.

The U.S. government also filed a separate information

charging Li with one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking by fraud, force, or coercion.

Li and Lin signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty.

CUC's Fletcher welcomes 30-day extension of his contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alan W. Fletcher has welcomed and accepted the 30-day extension of his job contract with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"I am honored that Gov. [Eloy] Inos has asked me to stay on for an interim period and I appreciatively accepted," said Fletcher yesterday, as he extended his congratulations to the new governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.

Yesterday was supposedly Fletcher's last day in office after his contract was not renewed by former governor Benigno R. Fitial for reasons many believe was due to their differences over a controversial \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Fletcher is CUC deputy director of the Water and Wastewater Division and is also acting executive director since the departure of Abe Utu Malae in May last year.

CUC has been under a state of emergency since May 2012.

Inos said that CUC must continue to operate under some form of management until an executive director can be appointed. Both deputy director and executive director posts are requirements of the federal stipulated orders for CUC.

"Yesterday was a momentous day in CNMI history and while we witnessed a leadership

change, our community is still faced with many challenges. The next 30 days will allow the governor and his team to work with CUC in identifying and setting priorities," said Fletcher.

He enumerated some priorities when asked about his plans for the next 30 days.

"We currently have a lot on our plate, including our new automated utility billing and financial systems, telephone call center, power plant upgrades, [and] water and sewer system projects.

These projects, plus the day-to-day business of delivering reliable services, will be our primary focus. I know I speak for everyone here at CUC in welcoming the new administration and in looking forward to working together to deliver quality services to the people of CNMI," said Fletcher.

A few months ago, Fitial submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for concurrence a list of four executive director candidates. EPA has yet to issue a decision.

The deputy director post, meantime, was announced last week.

CUC is still working on addressing the requirements of two stipulated orders that seek to align CUC with the standards and requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

MCS unveils 'Legacy' yearbook

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero unveiled yesterday the institution's commemorative yearbook called "Legacy"—a document that chronicles the school's 60-year history.

Full of images, stories, and tidbits from the school's archives, the yearbook is being released as part of Mount Carmel School's continuing celebration of its 60th Anniversary. Also included are pictures from the school's successful "Night with the Knights" anniversary fundraiser held in October last year.

"The title is very appropriate because the yearbook illustrates the legacy of many AlumKnights who call Mount Carmel School their alma mater. All AlumKnights are sure to find someone they know, or even themselves, in the yearbook," said Deleon Guerrero.

A limited number of copies are available. Those who want copies may contact the MCS Business Office at 235-1201 or 235-1285 or email the school's Business Manager, Keiko Yamagata, at keikoyamagata7@yahoo.com.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED PROPOSALS

ON TWO HOUSES IN KAGMAN, SAIPAN

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) announces this request for qualified proposals on two concrete house structures in Kagman, Saipan,

MPLT Resolution 10-10 establishes the Supplemental Home Investment Program (SHIP). Under the program, MPLT offers these acquired homes in its inventory to qualified persons. The three significant qualification requirements include the following: 1) the homes are offered at the minimum appraised value; 2) each proposer is credit-worthy for debt-service for the amount of the appraised value of the home; and 3) the proposer is certified as qualified under the CNMI Homestead Program with the CNMI Department of Public Lands, Homestead Division.

The interest rate is 2% per annum fixed under the program.

Notice is given to all proposers that there are *no warranties* of any kind as to any of the homes under the SHIP program. Homes are presented for proposals "as is and where is" without warranties as to habitability, suitability or fitness for purpose. It is the responsibility of each interested proposer to inspect or commission an inspection of the property.

In this announcement MPLT solicits qualified proposals for two acquired homes located in **Kagman, Saipan**. They are not subject to the right of redemption. Below is a photograph and short description of each home as well as the minimum appraised value. Interested proposers may pick up the application packets at the MPLT Office at House No. 1222, Capital Hill; or with the MPLT Loan Administrator (Bank of Saipan) in Chalan Kanoa. The deadline for submission of proposals for either house is **Friday, March 15, 2013**.

Marianas Public Land Trust
Tel 3224401/4402



MPLT SHIP PROGRAM HOUSE NO. SHIP-001

3 Bedroom Concrete House/2 bath, Kagman 2
Septic Tank System
Located across the street from the old DYS Kagman Facility (future CHC Community Health Center)
Partial Ocean View
Good/Fair condition.

Appraised value is \$90,000.00

MPLT SHIP PROGRAM HOUSE NO. SHIP-002

3 Bedroom Concrete House/1 bath, Kagman 2
Septic Tank System
Good Ocean View
Fair/Moderate condition.

Appraised value is \$52,000.00



Deleon Guerrero

publishers, "Legacy" took over a month of preparation and is mostly the product of current students. Students in Journalism classes spent class time on the project, but also worked after school and on some weekends to scan images, input stories from their interviews with AlumKnights, and revise pages.

Deleon Guerrero, himself a 1991 AlumKnight, expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to the yearbook's publication. "We are very thankful to Jostens, all the sponsors who helped fund the book, and, of course, all the students and teachers who worked hard to get this done. They all definitely published a quality yearbook worthy of the school's 60-year legacy," said Deleon Guerrero.

A limited number of copies are available. Those who want copies may contact the MCS Business Office at 235-1201 or 235-1285 or email the school's Business Manager, Keiko Yamagata, at keikoyamagata7@yahoo.com.

Published with Jostens, one of the world's leading yearbook

Preparations underway for this year's kite festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kites will soar high Saipan skies next month as Brilliant Star School gears up to host the Marianas Winds Kite Festival.

The event is slated for March 17, Sunday, from 10am to 3pm at the American Memorial Park baseball field in Garapan.

Admission is free and everyone is invited to come fly their kite, said Brilliant Star School principal Richard Sikkel.

"It is a community event and our main purpose is to see as many families out flying kites and enjoying family time as possible," Sikkel told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sikkel said the public will have the option to just fly their purchased or hand-made kites at the event or enter them in any of three various categories.

Interested contestants must fill out a registration form and pay a

non-refundable registration fee of \$5 per kite per contest category. Forms are available at Brilliant Star School in Navy Hill or may be downloaded at www.brilliantstarmontessori.org.

The Purchased Kite Contest Category is open to kites that were commercially purchased, either from Brilliant Star School or any store.

Contestants who register in this category can vie for the Most Beautiful Kite and Largest Kite awards.

The Hand-Made Kite or Personalized Kite Category involves kites that were built by the owner or those kites that were purchased and were improved or altered by at least 50 percent from its original design. Under this category are three awards: Most Beautiful/Original Kite, Smallest Kite, and the new category called Green School Kite.

"For the green school kite category, we invite all schools to enter

a handcrafted kite as a school or a class. The kite must be made by the students with minimal help from teachers/parents. It will be judged on originality in concept, design, construction, flight performance and the use of recycled materials," explained Sikkel.

Both purchased and handmade kites can be entered in the "always popular" Highest Flying Kite category. All competing kites should have a minimum of 10 foot-kite string and with a minimum flight time of 5 minutes.

Sikkel said that Brilliant Star School has begun selling kites in different colors and designs that are priced between \$4 and \$20.

"Besides the kite flying, there will be food, fun activities, and a raffle to keep everyone entertained," said Sikkel.

For more information, log on to www.brilliantstarmontessori.org or call 323-STAR (7827) from Monday to Friday between 8am to 3pm.

Presentation on waste-to-energy potential in CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Investors plan to make a presentation before lawmakers on March 1 about the potential of having a waste-to-energy or gasification facility in the CNMI, a presentation that at least the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications is looking forward to.

PUTC Committee chair Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said yesterday he encourages members to attend the presentation, as the Legislature helps to find ways to reduce utility costs for CNMI consumers by tapping alternative energy sources.

Norman T. Tenorio, managing director of Joeten Enterprises Inc., wrote a Feb. 20 letter to the Legislature informing them of their hosting of American investors Daniel J. Brink and Ben VanKorn of Alliance Federated Energy.

Tenorio said Brink and VanKorn will be in the CNMI "to assess the potential of

building a gasification facility."

"In short, gasification is the process in which biomass such as waste from our landfill or trash from our homes and businesses is converted into a fuel source. Because our current source of diesel-fueled power generation is swiftly becoming antiquated, we believe that gasification will be playing a larger role in the CNMI's environmentally sustainable and renewable energy portfolio," Tenorio told lawmakers.

He added that the rising cost of fossil fuels also means that gasification will be an affordable supplement to help lower the exorbitantly high costs of power generation.

The investors are looking at having the presentation before lawmakers on March 1, Friday, 2pm, at the Legislature.

The CNMI government listens to a host of presentations by foreign investors on alternative or renewable energy sources potentials, but to date, has yet to fully integrate any of these in the power generation system.



Deleon Guerrero

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Junior and Senior High School JROTC team members gather for a group photo. In photo are Josue Cruz, Alonica Anore, Nickkie Ayuyu, Zachariah Hofsneider, Hermes Ramos, Yun Ha Seo, Kyle Sandbergen, Wilhelmina Cing, Seo Yeon Ahn, and Keshawn Nabors.

Tinian team tops JROTC JLAB online competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Tinian Junior and Senior High School JROTC topped the statewide Junior Leadership and Academic Bowl, an online competition conducted simultaneously among participating teams in the Commonwealth.

Tinian had two representative teams for the leadership and academic categories of the competition.

The five that competed in the leadership category included team captain Josue Cruz and members Alonica Anore, Nickkie Ayuyu, Zachariah Hofsneider, and Hermes Ramos.

For the academic competition, team captain Yun Ha Seo led members Kyle Sandbergen, Wilhelmina Cing, Seo Yeon Ahn, and Keshawn Nabors.

The Tinian team was composed of ninth and 11th graders.

Economic Census wrapping up

The CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division is reminding all businesses in the CNMI of the 2012 Economic Census deadline.

As stated in previous press releases and on the 2012 Economic Census questionnaires, the deadline was Feb. 12, 2013. This due date has passed, "and if you have not already done so, please return your Economic Census form or complete and submit it online. The web address for online completion is located on the front page of the form along with the username and password required to log in," the division said in a statement yesterday.

According to the TJHS JROTC program senior instructor retired Sgt. Pete Salas, Tinian High cadets have been participating in the JLAB competition since 2008. This is a yearly event in which teams throughout the nation take part in.

The academic team is tested in several academics areas that include mathematics, sciences, English, comprehension, and current events. The leadership team is tested in leadership principles, practices, and traits; history and social science; and questions relating to U.S. Army Gen. George C. Marshal.

According to Salas, the JLAB competition began in November with the first online round. The students who scored high enough to proceed to Round 2 completed the competition this month.

Saipan Tribune learned that Tinian got the highest scores in

both categories during online examinations last Feb. 9. On Feb. 16, the group was notified of the overall result where the team garnered 85 percent in academic and 80 percent in the leadership category.

"It is our hopes that with the scores they received that they will be invited to participate in round three, which will take place in June at George Mason University in Virginia," Salas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Tinian has been to the nationals twice and separately sent one academic team and one leadership team. "We hope that both our teams get invited to the national event this year and if this occurs it will be the third time that Tinian will go," he said.

In an interview with team captain Josue Cruz, he said the team is proud of what it has achieved and hopes that they will make it to the nationals.

The data collected from this 2012 Economic Census is an invaluable tool for governments and businesses to ascertain the shape and size of the economy. It can drive investment opportunities and tax policies. This is why it is important to complete the forms.

"I also wanted to point out that a company can get an extension by going to the Business help site at <http://bhs.econ.census.gov/ec12/index.html> and then clicking on the link for Online Services. This will allow them to log in with their username and password from the front of their form and request a Time Extension, additional forms, a

e-mail of forms, send an email with questions through the secure messaging system or report electronically," said Geoffrey Hill of the Census Bureau.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 22, 2004

Wright critic says resignation 'long overdue'

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright's staunchest critic, former House Rep. Stanley T. Torres, called the NMC official's decision to resign Friday as "long overdue." Torres, who as member of the 13th Legislature has been vocal against Wright's manner of running the CNMI's lone public college, stated that had Wright quit earlier, NMC could have been saved from spending much needed funds, especially on the Pacific Gateway Project to lure in more Asian students. "It's long overdue for him to do. He came in and was too aggressive, not watching his move. First he terminated 11 people without due process. And he told the [13th] Legislature that he did not need the \$680,000. And then he gave his handpicked people a raise of \$10,000. I mean, what kind of math is that?" the former congressman asserted yesterday.

CPA lays out airport financial plan

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is confident that its airport division would be stricken out of Fitch Rating Agency's credit watch by the year 2005, as the CPA implements a rate study that would comply with its debt ratio service. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas disclosed Saturday that a presentation of the ports authority's financial plan was held last week in San Francisco, California before Franklin Fund and Fitch IBCA Rating agency representatives. The CPA rate study, which was conducted by the Ricondo and Associates, outlined ways to address the revenue shortfall of the airport division for this year in efforts to meet the 125 percent debt coverage service.

Feb. 22, 2005

Agencies to tackle NMI's volcanic hazards

As volcanic activity on Anatahan continues, volcano experts are planning to meet soon to prepare the CNMI for the occurrence of volcanic disasters. Emergency Management Office director Rudolfo Pua also said that the U.S. Geological Survey would perform volcano hazards assessment on Pagan, Agrihan and Alamagan-the

inhabited islands north of Saipan beginning in May. According to Pua, a workshop on volcano hazards in the CNMI would be conducted possibly in April. The USGS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Department of Defense will participate in the workshop.

MVA wants \$7.4M budget for FY06

The Marianas Visitors Authority is seeking a \$7.4-million budget for fiscal year 2006. The budget proposal recently submitted to Gov. Juan N. Babauta is 5 percent greater than the \$7-million annual appropriation that MVA has been receiving the past several years. MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente said the \$400,000 increase would cover increased promotions in new tourism markets that the tourism agency is planning to develop. These include Russia, Europe, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

Feb. 22, 2006

MPLA found liable to pay \$444K

The Superior Court yesterday found the Marianas Public Lands Authority liable to pay landowner Antonio CH. Camacho \$444,210 in just compensation plus interest over the taking of his two parcels of land. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman described MPLA's arguments as "repetitious yet unavailing" and warned its counsel, attorney Ramon Quichocho, that any further "questionable filings" shall be met with sanctions that may include awarding attorney's fees to the prevailing party. Wiseman awarded Camacho \$68,040 for the taking of his 756 square meters of land, \$28,170 for 313 square meters of land, and \$348,000 in severance damages.

Munson rejects Patris' objection

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson yesterday denied the objection of former police officer Charlie Kintaro Patris against him conducting the sentencing. The *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday late afternoon that Munson issued an order stating he has the judicial discretion to hold the sentencing of Patris. Munson cited that he became familiar with the case because he presided over the pre-trial proceedings and has also reviewed all the documents. Munson continued to this week the sentencing of Patris and his co-defendant, former police officer Eric John Tudela Mafnas. The judge postponed the sentencing of Patris last Friday in order for the court to have sufficient time to examine the defendant's objection to being sentenced by Munson.

Mayor renews push for RORO ferry between Saipan, Tinian



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

TINIAN—Following another successful year of the Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz continues to push for a roll-on/roll-off ferry system between Saipan and Tinian that he believes will improve interisland commerce and tourism.

Dela Cruz said in an interview that he is pleased to see that Tinian hosted hundreds of visitors not only from Korea and China but also residents from Saipan and Guam.

While there were more festival-goers this year, Dela Cruz argued that Tinian only sees a "slight increase" in its tourist arrivals given the lack of a roll-on/roll-off ferry boat that can bring more guests to the island.

At present, the only means of transportation to Tinian is by three to five-seater aircrafts operated by Star Marianas and Freedom Air.

"I think once we get that roll-on/roll-off ferry, we should be able to bring more people because they can actually drive their vehicles to the ferry and drive out once they come here to Tinian," he said.

A member of the Commonwealth Transit Authority board, Dela Cruz recognized the challenges of improving Tinian's transportation and making the ferry system a reality.

Tinian suffered when it lost its only ferry service to and from Saipan. Tinian Shipping and Transportation Services Inc., owned by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, suspended its services in March 2010. Since

then, people who want to visit Tinian can only travel by air.

Dela Cruz said he recommended to the Department of Public Works to do a "two-part" feasibility study on the proposed interisland roll-on/roll-off ferry services.

"One part would be ferry service between Saipan and Tinian because it's close, and the second part would be Rota and Guam," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He cited the dangerous open waters and the lack of passenger movement as the main reasons why a ferry service between Saipan and Rota is not likely to happen.

"A lot of people cannot stand a long voyage from Saipan to Rota. We just don't have the number that can sustain an operation like that. That's why I wanted to recommend some-

thing that's small and affordable for the two islands," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dela Cruz also stressed his efforts to work with the mayors in Guam to have commuter terminals to cut down travel time for local passengers.

He thanked Star Marianas for giving "super discount" to guests who wanted to fly over to Tinian during the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, a two-day event that highlights the small but highly potent, locally grown pepper *donni sali*. This year's festival was held at Kammer Beach on Feb. 16 to 17. The annual event is the island's biggest community event.

Dela Cruz also expressed his appreciation to Norman Tenorio for allowing their vessel, *Super Emerald*, to sail to Tinian and bring more visitors, particularly bikers from Saipan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Tourists wait for their flight to Tinian at the departure area of the Saipan commuter terminal on Feb. 15.

DPS weekly blotter

During the period from Feb. 10 to 16, 2013, the Department of Public Safety received a number of calls or complaints. The following are the reported numbers of active complaints, disregarded, and login reports."

COMPLAINT STATUS	RECEIVED
Active	77
Disregard	107
Login	14
Total received	198

The following is the breakdown of the active complaints that were received during the time period above. These are active complaints and were investigated or are still under investigation by DPS. Number of arrests also shown.

Criminal

Assault and Battery: 01, 0 arrests
Domestic violence: 01, 01 arrest
Burglary, theft, criminal mischief: 29, 0 arrest
Disturbing the peace: 07, 02 arrests
Illegal possession of cont subs: 01, 02 arrest
Sexual assaults: 01, 0 arrest
Others: 05, 00

Traffic

Car crashes: 18, 1 arrest
Bicycle/motorcycle crashes: 01, 0 arrest
Crashes involving pedestrians: 00, 0
DUI crashes, DUI offenses: 05, 05 arrests

Fire: Structure fire 02, 0 arrest
Non-criminal, service calls: 00, 0 arrest

Traffic citations

Speeding violations 3, seatbelt violations 15, car seat violations 1
Reckless driving violations: 00
Other traffic violations 30

Guam motorcyclist dies in accident

HAGATNA, GUAM (AP)—A 27-year-old man has been killed in a motorcycle accident on Guam.

According to the *Pacific Daily News*, police said Andre Paul Regalado Dela Cruz was killed Sunday when his motorcycle

ran off Alageta Road while driving west toward the Route 16 overpass. He died at the scene.

Guam Police said Monday that Dela Cruz fractured his skull. Police said they could not find a helmet at the accident scene.

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Opinion

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Pacific Islands News Association

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



On governor's resignation

It was bad tidings for a few loyalists of the governor, good tidings for the multitude who demanded eradicating the suspiciously filthy growth of corruption in government.

It was a sigh of relief that demands recapturing and rebuilding the ruins of recent past. It's a powerful and prominent reminder that the elected elite can only work within the parameters of the "consent of the governed."

We must move forward and not engage in sapping the enthusiasm of the multitude anymore than what has happened in recent past. Let's give them personal motivation to contribute to the general well-being of the community. They need not repeat being victims of grand arrogance and negligence.

The former governor's missteps were costly. There's no one else to point fingers at for he was the only one handed the trust he opted to betray royally, too. Thus, the price of surrendering a once treasured trophy he would have relished for life.

On a personal basis, the former chief is suffering from two major surgeries. The pain he had to endure daily coupled with an advancing age doesn't offer respite to gathering youthful stamina to wage a legal battle in the Senate. He needs to rest from it all. He's found it in his resignation.

His vacating his post automatically elevates Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to governor of the CNMI. It also elevates the Senate president to lieutenant governor. The shift ought to take some period of adjustment to ensure that the nuts on all four wheels have been securely tightened.

Inos must immediately appoint loyal Covenant followers to key and Cabinet positions even if it means firing Fitialites, especially those who hailed from the GOP. This decision should resolve the question his (Inos') loyalists have asked: What about us?—when Fitial trashed or abandoned their fate three years ago. Inos needs to get this done ASAP.

The new order places the burden of leadership on the new governor and presiding officers of the Legislature, a burden a bit too numerous and substantive requiring sober paradigms and realistic resolve. It definitely requires the employment of integrity and mindfulness.

The beastly mess ahead

The celebratory tide of Fitial's resignation would quickly subside, as familiar beastly issues emerge right before the eyes of new leadership. They are:

1. A dastardly disastrous economy that has eviscerated jobs where 6,000-plus folks are jobless today.

2. Joblessness triggers such significant issues as the loss of the first family home. The underemployed can't meet basic family needs, especially workers dangling at the poverty threshold.

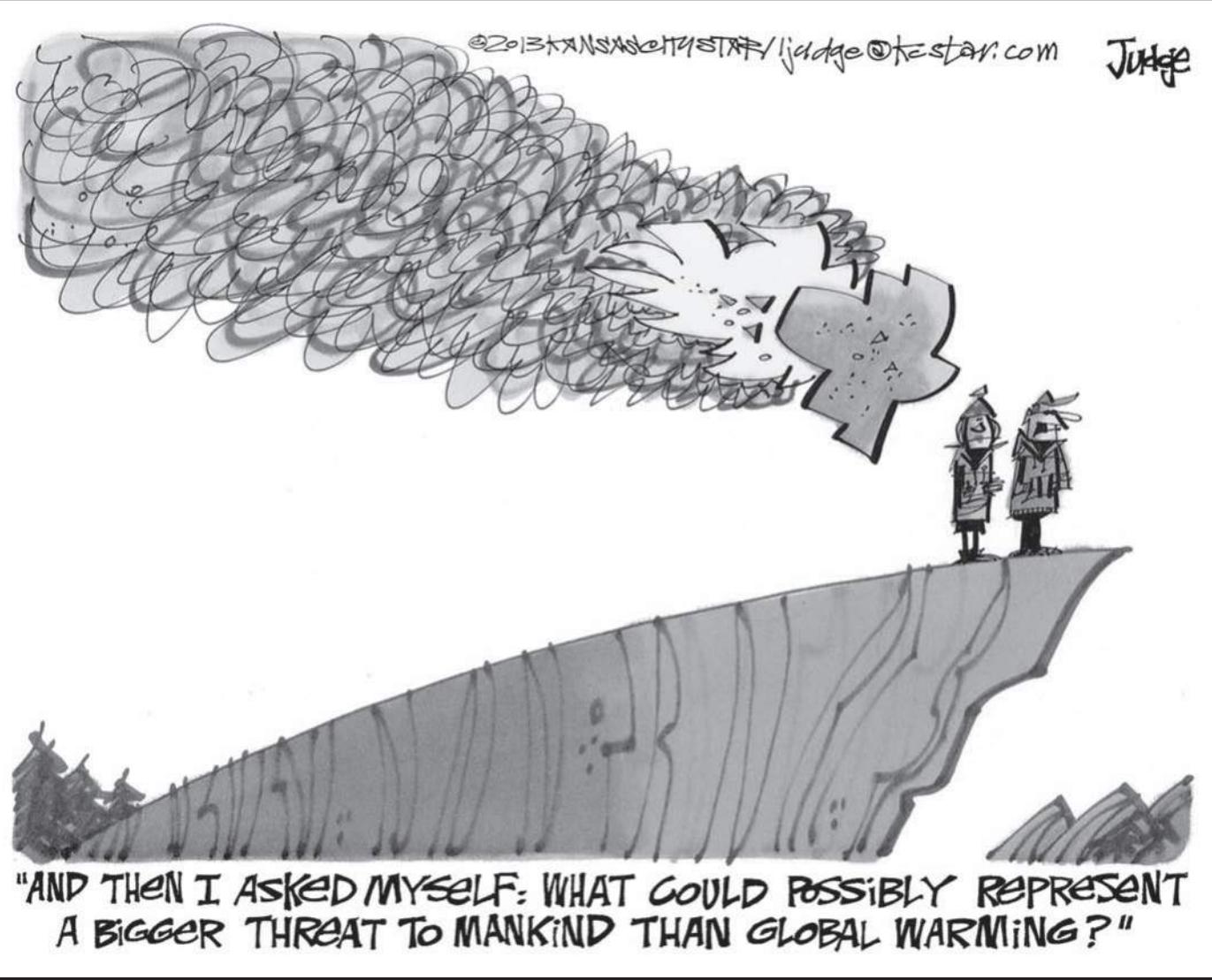
3. Major budgetary shortfall for a crippled administration trying to meet employer's contribution of over \$300 million.

4. Chances that revenue degeneration would spread into failing to meet matching contribution on Medicaid, medical referral, etc.

5. Would leadership create opportunities to encourage the return of over 2,000 families who relocated to greener pastures?

These issues, difficult as they may be, require leadership to line up their ducks and begin the long journey to organizing, im-

See GOVERNOR'S on Next Page



A 30-day Aloha ends

We skipped Dong Bei winter a month ago, missed the colorful and loud Spring Festival, aka, Chinese Lunar New Year, but we soaked in the warmth sunny lei land. We are grateful for both the occurrence and the ending of our 30-day sojourn in paradise.

The respite was timely. We suffered from flu symptoms without the fever when I arrived so my nurse sister immediately put me into quarantine, and discouraged any visit to 92-year-old mother in an elders' care facility. Her MD appreciated my keeping distance. I pretty much kept a solitary meditative time on vacation.

I missed a flu vaccine this winter. The Chinese health practitioner I consulted revealed a difference in approach. She said that the vaccine addresses the 35 percent susceptible to the disease; Chinese medicine encourages the 65 percent to stay healthy, and deals with the 35 percent statistically vulnerable when it happens.

The practical Sino matter-of-fact approach compares well to the anxiety and fear-laden discourse often used by health care practitioners in the guise of preventive medicine. They charge insurance the number of services provided to a client. We noticed the aggressive marketing of services even in the altruistic ambience of the Kalihi-Palama Health Center that is geared primarily to serve low-income folks.

On my blood tests, my attending RN and MD spoke of my options of preventive measures (vaccines/immunizations) that they can provide if I so desired, and pharmacological intakes that can mitigate the further spread of germs. I know of relations who down handful of pills before breakfast, to no avail. I declined the offer.

With my cholesterol on the high count (genetics and food as determinants), and blood pressure slightly more intense than normal, the doctor approvingly nodded when I described my intake of high fiber, fresh fruits, and vegetables in my diet, and the aerobic regimen in my daily routine. I followed previous doctors' advice and it paid off. Thankfully, objective care was their concern, not scaring my wits to be coerced into something.

On our national consciousness, "In God we trust" featured in the US currency has been reduced to irrelevance since WWII when G-O-D theological talk declined; some celebrated its demise. President Reagan kidded people to "Trust but verify," his motto when he dealt with Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Ashcroft during George Bush's distracted watch turned it to "Distrust and destroy." Alas, cheery Obama notwithstanding, as seen on the tail fender of a grunt's pickup in Honolulu last week, it is now plainly "trust no one."

We murmured: "and terrify!"

Today, "deportation" has been given a masterful PR touch. Also, referred to as "removal," the word was used to the forcible move in the "trail of tears" of Cherokees out of the Carolines to expand

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millennium's turn. He now writes from China.

cotton production in the 1800's; also associated with the search for Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden!

While in the land of the rainbow connection, we visited one of our Saipan colleagues at Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu. She was billeted the last 10 months for cancer. She is on the tail end of chemotherapy and will return to her home in the foothills of northern Saipan soon. We remember her (we are of the same age) because after wandering into the courtyard of the Zen, she openly and graciously learned to speak of "death" and the process of aging.

Not so with America whose handling of death is denial, defiance, and grief. America is dialectically divided between those who wish to return to an illusory "golden age," and those who will further their utopian dreaming (in the language of my background, "usher the kingdom of God on earth"), America changes the topic when confronted by the terminus of human consciousness.

In both cases, the warriors of the past and the luminaries of the future want us to live elsewhere than the ambiguous yet tangible offerings of the present here-and-now. In our Aloha sojourn, we encountered fearful and frustrated folks who long for their chosen by-gone era, and the self-righteously indignant ones who moralistically and even legally wish to impose their future design on everyone.

My authentic aloha of this visit swam in the sea of disenfranchised and displaced native Hawaiians; also, the homeless. Reconnecting to the familiar haunts of my upbringing, I ran into a colleague who lost his home lease in Hawaii's rapid cost-of-living rise. He decided to sleep outdoors in solidarity with native Hawaiians. He found the experience physically healing and consciously liberating.

We ran into the ancient witness of Isaiah. "Woe betide those who enact unjust laws and draft oppressive edicts, depriving the poor of justice, robbing the weakest of my people of their rights, plundering the widow and despoiling the fatherless. What will you do when called to account?" A sobering and relevant thought in a world radically split between the sector of abundance and that of scarcity!

We missed the sway of the hula and the sinewy finger talk, but our Aloha sojourn cleared foggy landscapes of the mind and stuffed sinuses of the soul. We truly can say, Mahalo!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bear in the air

Guam made headlines last week when a pair of Russian Tu-95 "Bear" bombers flying toward the island were intercepted by some U.S. fighters. Which means this: We get to talk about airplanes today. Yeah!

And not any airplanes, mind you, but some truly old stuff from the murky mists of old Soviet days. Yep, we're going retro.

But first things first: The U.S. media reported that on Feb. 12, two Bears took off from Russia, flew down to the Guam area, and were intercepted by U.S. F-15 fighters launched from Guam's Andersen Air Force Base. After being intercepted, the bombers turned around and went back home.

So don't worry, the Russians weren't trying to bomb Guam. I'll admit I can't remember Guam getting this sort of attention before, though. Still, more generally it's reminiscent of the Cold War days, when Soviet Tu-95s would regularly probe American air defenses.

Last week's little event was like hearing Lou Reed on the car radio. It's a flashback.

"Take a walk on the wild side" would be a good theme for the west Pacific's situation. Airplanes and ships from various militaries are walking some pretty wild paths, probing defenses, and recording the reactions they encounter (radar emissions, radio communications, etc.) for later analysis. That's what militaries do.

Now let's look at the airplane itself. The Tu-95 Bear is unmistakable at a glance, with a long, skinny body, and long, skinny, swept wings.

It's a big airplane, roughly 414,500 lbs, which makes sense, since it's a strategic bomber. But here's the coolest part: It is a propeller-plane pulled by gigantic, monster engines that put out so much power that top speeds are listed over the 500 mph mark. My references

vary widely on just how fast this is, so we'll just leave it at 500-plus. Still, how can such a giant prop-plane go so fast?

Well, one reason is power. Lots of it.

Saipan residents are all familiar with the mighty B-29 bombers of WWII fame; that stuff is local lore. Each of the B-29's four engines put out 2,200 horsepower.

Generating those ponies took a lot of moving metal: 18 cylinders worth of supercharged up-and-down, up-and-down using pistons, intake valves, exhaust valves, push rods, crankshafts, cam shafts, magnetics, and so on. It makes my head hurt just thinking about it.

But there's another way to make a prop spin, a more elegant way where you get far more power, a lot more reliability, and do it for a lot less weight: Have a jet engine drive the propeller. This arrangement is called a turboprop. By the 1950s turboprop technology was so good that many airplanes flying today are, indeed, rooted in those designs.

The Tu-95 might be the most audacious example of the breed. Each of its four engines packs 14,800 horses. That's right, about seven times what a B-29 engine packed.

Well, power is all well and good, but if you've ever driven a high-performance car, you know that unless the power gets transmitted to the rubber correctly, you're just making a lot of noise and spinning your wheels. Propeller-driven aircraft have the same conceptual problem. Spinning a prop is one thing, but having it efficiently convert a mass of air into usable, propulsive thrust is quite another.

Imagine being a Soviet engineer tasked with corralling 14,800 horsepower into usable thrust. That's one of those assignments your boss drops on your desk at 4:30pm on a Friday before he slinks out of the office for happy hour.

Well, if that was the ultimate happy hour problem, somebody came up with the ultimate happy hour solution. They didn't just hang a prop on each engine. No, they hung two props on each en-



By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

gine, one behind the other.

Each set of propellers spins in the opposite direction from its mate, which provides more aerodynamic traction. Consider how you twist your hands in opposite directions when opening a stubborn jar of peanut butter. OK, that's probably the world's most inaccurate aerodynamic analogy, but sometimes clarity trumps accuracy.

Anyway, this arrangement is known as "contra-rotating." And speaking of clarity, don't you dare say "counter-rotating," because that's something else entirely and the flyboys will scoff.

So much for propulsion. Let's look at punch. Thanks to air-launched cruise missiles, we can think of the Tu-95 as a "launcher" that can hit a target from a long standoff distance. This is what has kept the thing strategically viable in the modern age.

The Tu-95's bomb bay can hold six nuclear cruise missiles, each of which has a range of about 1,600 nautical miles and has a yield of 200 kilotons. To put that last figure in perspective, the Hiroshima bomb was about 14 kilotons. In addition to its internal stores the Tu-95 can carry more nuclear missiles on external mounts.

The Tu-95 is over 60 years old now, but it's still a very tough Bear.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A message to retirees

Dr. Tom Arkle's letter to the editor of Feb. 21 concerning the fallacy of Pagan's pozzolan mining is well stated, comprehensive, and provides valuable advice for the uninformed who may still believe that pozzolan offers any hope to meet the future financial needs of the dwindling Retirement Fund, now scheduled for exhaustion in one year.

The Commonwealth Retiree's Association's public position in support of pozzolan mining as well as a pension obligation bond are instances that have contributed to deceiving retirees into believing these two ill-conceived, fallacious suggestions have the potential of successfully contributing to strengthening the financial reserves of the Fund.

They do not. And for the CRA board, as an organization, to jointly and publicly state otherwise and to continually support such a harmful, ill-founded position does a misleading disservice to all retirees.

Hopefully, legislators will not waste any more time on the pozzolan matter and that trustee *ad litem* Razzano will avoid suggesting it to the court as a lifesaver for the drowning Retirement Fund, which it is not.

The erroneous position of the CRA board of directors in support of the use of the volcanic material to assist in financing the healthy restoration of the Fund must be strongly discounted as being unrealistic and the board should withdraw its public support of such and so advise the trustee *ad litem*.

Regrettably, I cannot recall a single instance since the CRA board has been in existence where it has made a positive con-

tribution toward any issue affecting the Fund. In my view there have been many opportunities when it could have taken a supporting position but failed to rise to the occasion to do so. If I am in error in this accusation perhaps the board will provide written examples in this forum for all to evaluate should the board takes umbrage at my statements.

I invite their response.

Hopefully, some of the CRA board members will strive to become more informed in the future with regard to the many issues that have an adverse impact upon the Fund and the financial future security of all retirees.

With the exception of a couple volunteers, there are other members of the "self-appointed" CRA board who have not, in my opinion, distinguished themselves as being informed spokespersons qualified to represent the best interests of the majority of retirees. The two examples cited above, i.e., pension bonds and pozzolan, are offered in support of this view.

While there are certainly several dedicated board members, one wonders if the rest are not mere "rubber stampers" rather than free, independent thinkers and problem solvers.

The CRA board holds itself out as representing the position of retirees, advocating both pension bonds and pozzolan recovery as viable solutions to save the Fund. The board does so without the support of a modicum of factual information to back their position.

Failure to expose these CRA-supported positions amounts to a disservice to all retirees and risks serious repercussion for the future financial security of retirees should the courts accept CRA pronouncements as valid, factual, and realistic alternatives supported by the majority of retirees for preserving the Fund. They are not and the retirees should be made aware of the danger this group and its

fully with Fitial's resignation. Stunning, though, the unexpectedly quick succession from impeachment to resignation. But he brewed his own toxic blue soda over the last three years.

As difficult the times may be, still being torched by the magma of negligence cascading from upstairs, the fiery torch is finally in the hands of the multitude. Catch it and let's move forward. There's no room to pontificate but a lot of room to rekindle indigenous resiliency to see our way through thick and thin over the rest of the year.

The task ahead requires the positive contributions of our people. Tradition also must be allowed to set in, where we extend the olive branch to our enemies, real and perceived, to let the healing process begin. We're known for our resiliency through all adversity. This is the time to employ it with an open mind.

Buddy Magoo walks around his backyard still stunned at the tidings of Fitial's resignation. He said it's too hard understanding why he had to resign. Well, he has a fight in his hands both in the Senate

"closed" deliberative decision process poses to a successful rehabilitation of the Fund.

Sorry to be so blunt but in my opinion it is time the above is brought out in the open for public discussion by all interested retirees—participation which, to my knowledge, the CRA board itself has never widely encouraged, at least in the print media.

The CRA was once believed to hold out great promise in its ability to assist the retirees. However, this was not to be as in my judgment the organization deteriorated to the level of a disappointment. The organization has contributed nothing of which I am aware of that benefit the cause of retirees. The time has come to recognize and acknowledge this obvious and regrettable fact.

In my view, concerned retirees have an obligation to themselves to evaluate the positions of CRA and realistically and unemotionally recognize CRA publicly supported positions for what they are—extremely unproductive and counter to the best long-term interests of the Fund's viability.

In closing and keeping in mind the CRA board is composed of volunteers, the comments expressed above are not intended to be applied across the board in a "broad brush" fashion. Rather my opinions and observations are directed to those CRA board members when and where the "shoe fits."

For the other board members I express my appreciation and thanks for their service and dedication.

Regarding my assessment of the above, I invite any response from any interested retiree, whether pro or con, to the public forum provided by this media.

Bill Stewart

Charleston, W. Va.

<http://www.saipanstewart.com>

and Superior Court but decided otherwise. His failing health has sapped his intellectual acuity and integrity. It's time to move on and so the lieutenant governor (now Gov. Inos) could navigate our canoe away from fatally dangerous reef lines in the Philippine Sea.

■ ■ ■

I wonder what lies ahead as the mess recedes? Would the sun emerge out east at dawn or will it peep behind the thick veil of heavy, black, and fearful clouds? Would we be able to see brighter days ahead? I could only remain guardedly optimistic until the brief honeymoon is over and the new leadership settles down.

■ ■ ■

Hope the storm has subsided so we could see clearly where we're headed. The dark blue mist around each island whipped up by windy conditions isn't necessarily insurmountable. With a fully seasoned captain now in charge of our canoe, we should navigate our way into each storm confident we could pull out of it each time. Brace for more work ahead. *Biba Marianas!*

GOVERNOR'S

From Page 10

proving upon investment policies, and rebuilding the ruined economic foundation and pillars of the CNMI. It isn't an easy task but at least there's a new air and aura that things would finally begin falling into place forthwith.

Time for healing

Politics could be highly explosive, raucous, and contentious. It is a complete departure from the traditional mode of reconciliation—the resolution of differences before sunset—so we all go home at peace with ourselves ready for a good night's sleep.

Humbling, though, how our democratic republic has evolved, where the multitude has proactively sought change, ready to shoulder the difficult task that comes with it. This aspiration has been conquered peace-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 75
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▾ 78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▾ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 44 ▾ 23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 73 ▾ 62
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▾ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 36 ▾ 30
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 62 ▾ 41
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 64
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81 ▾ 70
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 35 ▾ 25
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▾ 37
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 32 ▾ 26
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 52 ▾ 29
Rome	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 43
Salem	Showers	▲ 46 ▾ 41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 59 ▾ 43
Seoul	Windy	▲ 40 ▾ 20
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 49 ▾ 34
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 42 ▾ 31

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Today	3:18 PM	3:35 AM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Saturday	4:09 PM	4:20 AM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM	Sunday	5:01 PM	5:03 AM
Monday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Monday	5:52 PM	5:45 AM
Tuesday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Tuesday	6:45 PM	6:27 AM

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648
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USCG cutter checks out Saipan, Tinian

»Coast Guard crew takes in sights and sounds of Pika Festival

Coast Guard cutter *Washington* recently returned from a successful deployment on Saipan and Tinian. Crews conducted over 13 recreational boating safety boardings on Saipan and were able to participate in the Tinian Pepper Festival, taking in the local culture and World War II history.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



APRA HARBOR, Guam—The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, a 110-foot patrol boat, recently conducted a boating safety operation on Saipan and attended Tinian's 9th Annual Pika Festival.

The boating safety operation consisted of 13 law enforcement boardings in Tanapag Harbor to ensure vessels had all necessary safety equipment. One of these boardings uncovered a small vessel operating without lifejackets. As a result, *Washington*'s crew sent the vessel back to the marina.

Washington's commanding officer, Lt. Nate MacKenzie, said, "Our main goal for patrols like these is to keep people safe while they are on the water. We check safety gear to make sure people will have it when they need it. No one ever plans on getting into trouble in a boat, so it is important that people have the right equipment every time they go out."

Upon completing their boating safety mission, *Washington*'s crew represented the Coast Guard at Tinian's Pika Festival. This annual celebra-

tion honors the *donni sali*, a small, hot pepper indigenous to Tinian.

The crew enjoyed the *donni sali* and other local delicacies, but also took time to visit the historic sights on the island. Tinian is full of both World War II and local history.

During the visit, fireman Ryan Due noted, "Tinian is the only place you can get a pepper as hot as the *donni sali* and see all of these relics from World War II just scattered throughout the jungle. It is a really cool place." (USCG)

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NMC's 3rd Annual Health Fair tomorrow

The Northern Marianas College Nursing Club is inviting all community members to the 3rd Annual Health Fair, which will be held tomorrow, Feb. 23, 2013, from 8am to 3pm. at the Multi-Purpose Center. The purpose of the health fair is to increase awareness about healthy lifestyle habits and practices.

The event is made possible through the collaboration of many sponsors and community partners that include the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems' Big Steps For Little Feet Program, Marianas Eye Institute, Hardt Eye Clinic, the Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic, Saipan Health Clinic, Take Care Insurance, Island Apparel, Tropical Blendz, Foremost Foods Saipan, the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club,

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Athlete's Foot Saipan, and Trench Tech.

The health fair activities will run from 8am until 3pm, and will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 6:30am. Registration for the 5K Walk will be from 6:30am to 7:30am, and there will be incentives for participants while supplies last. Entrance to the Health Fair and the 5K Walk is free for all community members.

The health fair is supported with the assistance of the College Access Challenge Grant, Area Health Education Center, the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College, the Office of the Dean of Student Services, Renbat Co., Inc. dba Rent-A-Car, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Commonwealth Can-

cer Association, and Dickerson & Quinn Wholesale, Inc.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be games and information booths, as well as free immunizations, screenings for blood pressure, height and weight, and blood glucose. There will also be various presentations and fitness classes from organizations like the Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services Extension Service's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, GetFit CNMI, and Trench Tech. The American Red Cross will also demonstrate hands-only CPR techniques.

The Division of Public Health Immunization Program will be giving immunizations from 8am

to 11am. If you are planning to come down for immunizations, please be there no later than 10:45am and bring your child's yellow immunization card or any other records of immunization given.

Participants may also purchase one-dollar raffle tickets for a chance to win prizes like dental exams from Seventh-Day Adventist, eye exams from Marianas Eye Institute, and gift certificates from Tropical Blendz. Funds raised will be donated to the NMC Nursing Club to purchase lancets and other supplies used for community service projects.

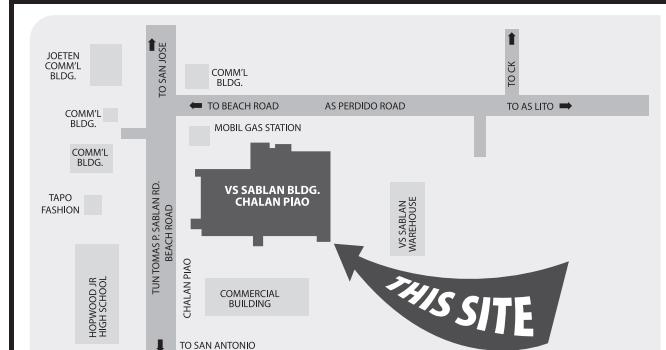
Members in the community can also learn about various

health services and tips from organizations like Marianas Health Services and the Substance Abuse/Tobacco Abuse Prevention Program. Children are encouraged to participate in the Northern Marianas Athletics kid's obstacle course.

Interested community members and businesses are encouraged to donate gently used dresses, tuxedos, shoes, accessories, and bags to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's Project PROM during the health fair.

For additional information about the health fair, contact NMC Nursing Club president Carina Train at 234-5498 Ext. 1346. (NMC)

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At Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA we have rental space available on the first floor now at 65 cents per square foot for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at 35 cents per square foot.

At our Chalan Piao Location – Apartment for Rent

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3rd Floor - 2 bedroom, 1 full bath with Refrigerator.

800 sq.ft. \$350.00

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– 3,779 Sq Meters Available for Lease at Laulau Bay.

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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.



BON VOYAGE!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bon voyage to Stephen Austin "Silayoong" Litulumar! May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, all day long, may everything go right, and nothing go wrong, and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, we pray for you and that God holds you in the hollow of his hands and keep you safe. This is not a goodbye; this is a see-you-later! We love you always and will be waiting for your safe return as you go on this new journey. With love always, your Litulumar family.

Man gets 6 years for child porn possession

Guam resident Galileo Cacapit Cruz was sentenced last week

in the U.S. District Court for Guam to six and a half years in

prison for possession of child pornography.

According to Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Cruz used his personal computer to download 20 movies containing child pornography. These movies of child pornography depict children, as young as 10 years old, being subject to sexual abuse, rape, torture and bondage.

Limtiaco commends the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations for their work on this case.

Limtiaco noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Initiative, a nationwide commitment to protect children from sexual predators, producers and possessors of child pornography, as well as computer facilitated offenses.

Cruz will be made to register as a sexual offender with the Guam Sex Offender Registry.

The case was prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorney Rosetta San Nicolas. (USAO)

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For the raffle you will be able to win special Gift Prizes!
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Special Promo
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Raffle Draw will be on Feb. 24, 2013 (SUN)

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 COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Group cleanups on Saturday

The Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council is advising motorists to be careful when driving through the following areas on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, due to group cleanups:

- Fishing Tackle: Directly in front of Fishing Tackle building up to the traffic light in Susupe.
- Priority Care: Eastbound lane in front of Chalan Kiya Tire Shop to Service Star/YCO Building.
- 670 Kennel Group: At the San Vicente traffic light intersection.
- Grace Christian Academy: At the Navy Hill traffic light intersection in front of NMHC and CHC

These groups have adopted these areas under the Adopt A Place program of the Office of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. (PR)

Schools invited to Academic Challenge Bowl

The Marianas High School chapter of the National Honor Society will be hosting the elementary-level Academic Challenge Bowl on April 6, 2013, a Saturday.

All public and private elementary schools are invited to participate in this event. Each participating school will need to form a team consisting of five students from grade four to six.

If your school is interested in joining this islandwide competition, confirm your participation by March 15, 2013, by faxing (664-3805), calling, or emailing NHS advisers Lorraine Catienza at 237-3282 or lorraine.catienza@cnmispss.org or Dr. Chas Algaier at 237-3219 or chas.algaier@cnmispss.org. (PR)

'College Night' at Saipan Southern High

Saipan Southern High School will host a "College Night" on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, at the cafeteria from 6:30pm to about 9pm. There will be a PowerPoint presentation on the entire college process, along with materials handed out, and a Q&A at the end, sponsored by Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands. All interested students in grades 9 to 12 are invited to attend. Parents are also welcome to come. (TWPI)

MAFEA to induct new officers on Saturday

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects, or MAFEA, will be having its 2013 induction of officers and board of directors on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013. The venue will be at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Azucena I and II, from 6pm to 10pm.

All Filipino engineers and architects in CNMI and in Guam are invited to attend the activity. For more information, contact Randy at 888-0899, Eric at 888-0898, or Ruel at 285-8863. (Mafea)

Leprosarium beach red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Leprosarium Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from this site had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Masters softball tournament

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to a masters softball tournament this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, at 11am, Dandan Elementary School field, continuing every Sunday until June 2013. For more information, call Tonnei at 483-9665. (PR)

Tinian Municipal Council sets session

The 14th Tinian Municipal Council will have a regular session on Monday, Feb. 25, 2013, at 10am, at the Municipal Council conference room. Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Council clerk at the Municipal Council office, prior to the convening of the session. Oral testimony may be presented during council's session. If you wish to present oral testimony, inform the Council clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the session. (PR)

ARC Preparedness Health & Safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Feb. 27 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- Feb. 28 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (PR)

CCA names new board members

CONTACT INFO

Tel: 682-0050
Email: ccamarianas@gmail.com
Website: www.ccamarianas.org.

the CCA. The public is encouraged to learn about CCA programs and contribute to the very important and worthwhile work of the association. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or via email at ccamarianas@gmail.com, or visit its website at www.ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Kuniko Sasaki! We wish you good health, good fortune, and good life. Greetings come from your Marianas High School family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Louis Benedict Rectitud, who is celebrating his special day today, Feb. 22, 2013! No matter how many birthdays come and go, you'll always be our little boy. We love you and God bless! Always be a good boy! Greetings come from your Papa, Mommy, and Ate Queen.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2012 Ford Fiesta

IT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL

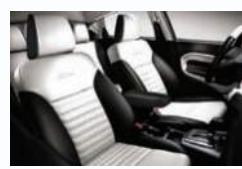



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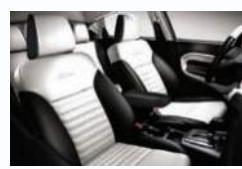
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Quest S	C9042753	White	\$4,000.00	Fiesta SE	CM221698	Red	\$3,000.00
Quest SV	C90402 SOLD	Silver	\$4,000.00	Fiesta SE	CM2214 SOLD	Blue	\$3,000.00
Altima Coupe	BC100556	Black	\$4,000.00	Ranger XL	BPA9270 SOLD	Silver	\$4,000.00
HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount	Ranger XL	BPA9270 SOLD	Silver	\$4,000.00
Civic LX	CE0087 SOLD	White	\$2,800.00	Ranger XL	BPA5260 SOLD	Grey	\$4,000.00
Civic LX	CE0059 SOLD	Beige	\$2,800.00	Ranger Sport	BPA99588	White	\$4,000.00
Civic EX	CE005271	Black	\$3,000.00	Ranger Sport	BPA5260 SOLD	Silver	\$4,000.00
Accord LX	CA007985	Blue	\$3,500.00				



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Pine Adjustable Shelving
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\$7.95 case



Weslo Pursuit 26 inch Exercise Bike
\$129.95



Weslo Cardio Stride Treadmill
\$139.95



Ez-Up 10x10 Instant Shelter
\$79.95



Northwest Territory Deluxe Arm Chair
\$9.95



Business

Pentagon notifies Congress of likely furloughs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told Congress on Wednesday that if automatic government spending cuts kick in on March 1 he may have to shorten the workweek for the “vast majority” of the Defense Department’s 800,000 civilian workers.

They would lose one day of work per week, or 20 percent of their pay, for up to 22 weeks, probably starting in late April.

To dispel the notion that this is mainly a problem for the na-

tion’s capital, the Pentagon’s budget chief, Robert Hale, told reporters that the economic impact would be felt nationwide. The biggest potential losses, in term of total civilian payroll dollars, would be in Virginia, California, Maryland, Texas and Georgia, according to figures provided by the Pentagon.

Hale said the unpaid leaves for civilian workers would begin in late April and would save \$4 billion to \$5 billion if extended through the end of the budget year, Sept. 30. That is only a fraction of the \$46 billion the Pentagon would have to cut this budget year unless a deficit-reduction deal is reached.

Panetta also said the across-

the-board spending reductions would “put us on a path toward a hollow force,” meaning a military incapable of fulfilling all of its missions.

In a written message to employees, Panetta said that he notified members of Congress Wednesday that if the White House and Congress cannot strike a deficit reduction deal before March 1 to avoid the furloughs, all affected workers will get at least 30 days’ advance notice.

“In the event of sequestration we will do everything we can to be able to continue to perform our core mission of providing for the security of the United States, but there is no mistaking that the rigid nature of the cuts forced upon this department, and their scale, will result in a serious erosion of readiness across the force,” Panetta wrote.

Adding his voice to the budget debate, Secretary of State John Kerry said the fiscal impasse is a serious threat to American credibility around the world.

“Overall, sequestration will put us on a path toward a hollow force and inflict serious damage on our national security,” Panetta wrote.

“Think about it: It is hard to tell the leadership of any number of countries that they have to resolve their economic issues if we don’t resolve our own,” Kerry said Wednesday at the University of Virginia.

House Speaker John Boehner put the blame on Obama and said he agrees with Panetta that automatic spending cuts would devastate the military.

Boehner released a copy of Panetta’s letter formally notifying Congress that the Pentagon will have to consider furloughing a large portion of its civilian workforce if sequestration kicks in.

“The furloughs contemplated by this notice will do real harm to our national security,” Panetta wrote in his congressional notification letter, adding that it would make troops less ready for combat and slow the acquisition of important weapons.

“Overall, sequestration will put us on a path toward a hollow force and inflict serious damage on our national security,” Panetta wrote.

BP civil settlement remains elusive as trial nears

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The U.S. Justice Department and the five Gulf coast states affected by a massive oil spill nearly three years ago have indicated they would like to settle their environmental and economic claims with BP PLC ahead of a trial scheduled to start next week.

The problem is that they haven’t been able to agree on the possible terms of such an agreement. Months of negotiations have failed to resolve lingering differences—not just with the London-based oil giant, but among themselves.

The Justice Department convened a meeting with Gulf Coast state officials in Washington late last week in an effort to hammer out an offer to resolve the outstanding civil claims, but an agreement wasn’t reached, said a person familiar with the negotiations. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said reaching a settlement that satisfies all states’ competing interests has been difficult.

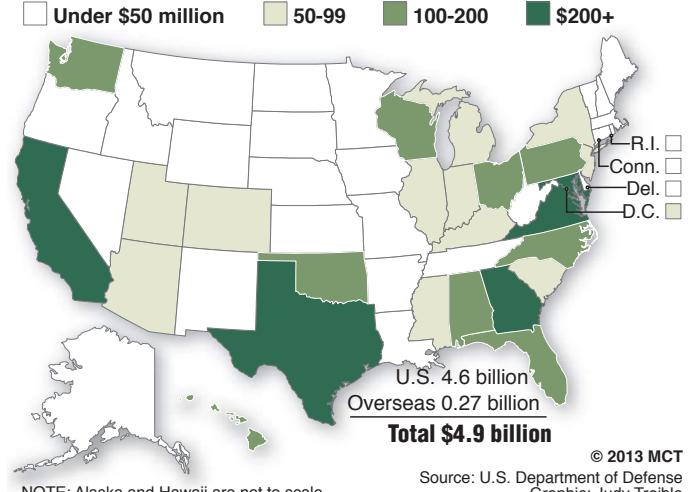
“We just want to make sure we get our fair share,” he said. “We had more economic damage than probably any state because of the loss of all the tourism we had in 2010. So it’s very important that the people of Alabama are compensated for the losses related to the oil spill.”

LAND ASSIGNMENT



1. **LAND AND BUILDING:** PICTURE ABOVE WITH POKER BUSINESS AND FORMER PIC LAUNDRY
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LAND AREA: 697 SQ.M LOCATED AT BEACH ROAD GARAPAN NEXT TO CENTURY INSURANCE BUILDING AND SAIPAN TRIBUNE
3. **LAND :** CONSIST OF 3 LOTS
LAND (A): 737 SQ.M LAND (B) 779 SQ.M
LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT WITH HOUSE AND WAREHOUSE FROMERLY ASIAPACIFIC CORP.
LAND AREA: 683 SQ.M LOCATED ACROSS 13TH FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARAIANAS EYE CLINIC
4. **LAND AND BUILDING:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT, FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS
LAND AREA: LAND (A) 1124 SQ.M, LAND (B) 1111 SQ.M LOCATED AT SAN ROQUE BEFORE PALM RESORT AND FORMER LA FIESTA
5. **LAND AND HOUSE (FARM)**
LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ.M LOCATED AT DANDAN NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE
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LAND AREA: 1,788 SQ.M LOCATED IN AS LITO NEXT TO ST. JUDE CHURCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL NIKO CONSULTANT INC. OR EMER AT 234-1816 OR 287-0693



Source: Boeing to propose 787 battery fix to FAA

WASHINGTON (AP)—Boeing has developed a plan that it intends to propose to federal regulators to temporarily fix problems with the 787 Dreamliner’s batteries that have kept the planes on the ground for more than a month, a congressional official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Boeing Commercial Airplanes CEO Ray Conner is expected to present the plan to Michael Huerta, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, in a meeting on

Friday, the official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to speak publicly.

Boeing Co. spokesman Marc Birtel said the company doesn’t talk in advance about meetings with federal officials.

“Everyone is working to get to the answer as quickly as possible, and good progress is being made,” Birtel said.

The FAA and overseas aviation authorities grounded all 50 of the

planes in service worldwide after a lithium ion battery caught fire on a plane parked in Boston and a smoking battery led to an emergency landing by another plane in Japan. The 787 is Boeing’s newest and most technologically advanced plane. It was supposed to exemplify the future of commercial aviation, but the groundings have been a major public black eye and financial drain for Boeing, which vies with Airbus for the position as the world’s largest

commercial aircraft maker.

The plane is also the first airliner to make extensive use of lithium ion batteries to help power its electrical systems. Lithium ion batteries weigh less, charge faster and hold more energy than other batteries of comparable size. But they are also more susceptible to short-circuiting that can cause fires if they are damaged, have manufacturing flaws, are exposed to excessive heat or are overcharged.

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For more information call the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Non-Communicable Disease Bureau at 323-QUIT (7848) or 236-8728.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. NMHC has made amendments to the previous QAP's selection criteria and fees.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on February 28, 2013, 10:00 a.m. at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft 2013 and 2014 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on February 28, 2013.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Kaipat at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Nation

Jesse Jackson Jr. pleads guilty in campaign case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., holding back tears, entered a guilty plea Wednesday in federal court to criminal charges that he engaged in a scheme to spend \$750,000 in campaign funds on personal items. He faces 46 to 57 months in prison, and a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000, under a plea deal with prosecutors.

A few hours later, his wife, Sandra Jackson, pleaded guilty to filing false joint federal income tax returns that knowingly understated the income the couple received. She faces one to two years in prison and a fine of \$3,000 to \$40,000.

In a 17-page prosecution document, Jackson's wife admitted that from mid-2006 through mid-October of last year, she failed to report \$600,000 in income that she and her husband earned from 2005 to 2011.



Former Illinois Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., center, arrives at the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013.

Before entering the plea to a conspiracy charge, Jesse Jackson told U.S. District Judge Robert L. Wilkins, "I've never

been more clear in my life" in his decision to plead guilty.

Later, when Wilkins asked if Jackson committed the acts

outlined in court papers, the former congressman replied, "I did these things." He added later, "Sir, for years I lived in my campaign," and used money from the campaign for personal use.

Jackson dabbed his face with tissues, and at point a court employee brought some tissues to Jackson's lawyer, who gave them to the ex-congressman. Jackson told the judge he was waiving his right to trial.

"In perfect candor, your honor, I have no interest in wasting the taxpayers' time or money," he said.

U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen called the guilty plea "so tragic because it represents such wasted potential" and that Jackson used his campaign as "his own personal piggybank." He said that Jackson could have been the voice of a new generation.

Obama considers weighing in on gay marriage case

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is quietly considering urging the Supreme Court to overturn California's ban on gay marriage, a step that would mark a political victory for advocates of same-sex unions and a deepening commitment by President Barack Obama to rights for gay couples.

Obama raised expectations among opponents of the Proposition 8 ban when he declared in last month's inaugural address that gays and lesbians must be "treated like anyone else under the law." The administration has until Feb. 28 to intervene in the case by filing a "friend of the court" brief.

The Proposition 8 ballot initia-

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP13-CHC-071**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO PROVIDE DATA SYSTEMS FOR THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-075 (ROTA)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 05, 2013 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPT. OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE - ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPL-081**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"JANITORIAL AND CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

ACROSS THE NATION

Official: Calif. gunman was loner, 'gamer'

TUSTIN, Calif. (AP)—The first of three people killed in a gunman's rampage was identified Wednesday as a 20-year-old woman but police did not know why she was in the home of the shooter, who lived with his parents and was described by authorities as a video game-playing loner. Courtney Aoki, 20, of Buena Park was shot multiple times early Tuesday in the home where gunman Ali Syed, 20, lived, said Orange County sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino. Authorities don't know her occupation, how she might have known Syed, how she got in the house—or what drove Syed to kill her with a shotgun and then leave a trail of dead and wounded as he stole a series of cars and eventually committed suicide at an intersection.

Storm moving into Plains blamed for fatal crash

ST. LOUIS (AP)—An armada of snow plows and salt spreaders deployed Wednesday on highways across the nation's heartland as a winter storm that's already blamed for one death promised to dump up to a foot of snow in some areas and bring freezing rain and sleet to others. Winter storm warnings were issued from Colorado through Illinois. By midday Wednesday, heavy snow was already falling in Colorado and western Kansas. In Oklahoma, roads were covered with a slushy mix of snow and ice that officials said caused a crash that killed an 18-year-old man. National Weather Service meteorologist Jayson Gosselin said parts of Colorado, Kansas and northern Missouri could get 10 to 12 inches of snow. Dodge City, Kan., was bracing for up to 16 inches of snow. Farther south, freezing rain and sleet already were making driving treacherous.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-072 (ROTA)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 05, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMA
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-073 (TINIAN)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 05, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMA
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement and Delivery of Thirty (30) Proximity Fire Coats and Proximity Fire Pants for the Saipan International Airport
Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department
RFP No. CPA-RFP-001-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting for sealed proposals for procurement and delivery of thirty (30) brand new Globe B7U Proximity Fire Coat and thirty (30) Globe Proximity Fire Pants to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Saipan International Airport.

All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all shipping and handling charges and taxes that will be charged for purchases awarded under this contract, including excise tax. Size information can be picked up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Saipan International Airport's Arrival Terminal. Additional details are as follows:

Globe B7U Proximity Fire Coat

1. NFPA Compliant
2. 32" Length
3. Seven (7) Ounce PBK/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
4. 80% Kevlar Thermal Liner
5. Sideband Moisture Barrier
6. Zipper Inner Closure/Velcro Outer Closure
7. Dual Action Cargo Pockets, 9" x 9" with Hand Warmers
8. Self-Material Reinforced Elbows
9. PVA Hand and Wrist Guards
10. 3P Zipper Pull on Left Chest, 3" x 3.5" x 9" with Antenna Notch on Left Side
11. DRD Drag Rescue Device
12. Arashield Cuffs
13. Action Back
14. Thermally Enhanced Upper Body and Elbows
15. Tab
16. All other standard features of the GX-7
17. Up to Size 58

Globe Proximity Fire Pant

1. NFPA Compliant
2. 32" Length
3. Seven (7) Ounce PBK/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
4. 80% Kevlar Thermal Liner
5. Sideband Moisture Barrier
6. 6" Back Bib
7. 2" x 10" x 10" Cargo Pockets
8. Expansion Knees
9. Flared Leg Design
10. Reverse Boot Cut
11. Replaceable Self Material Knees with Sewn on Frame
12. "H" Back Suspenders
13. Up to Size 58

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, February 25, 2013.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Business Profile;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than February 8, 2013.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director
Date: January 25, 2013

Asia

Japanese whaling ship, protesters' boats collide

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—An anti-whaling activist group accused a Japanese whaling vessel of intentionally ramming two of its ships Wednesday in waters near Antarctica. Japan's Fisheries Agency, however, insisted the protesters were responsible for the collisions.

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson

said he was aboard the ship Steve Irwin when the Japanese boat Nisshin Maru collided with it, the Bob Barker and a tanker used to refuel the Japanese whaling fleet.

Watson said the Japanese ship deliberately rammed the Sea Shepherd vessels to try to move them aside and get to the refueling tanker. He said the Japanese ship also accidentally hit the tanker. He said the incident, near the Australian Davis Research Base on the Antarctic coast, was particularly dangerous because the tanker was involved.

Japan's Fisheries Agency blamed the Sea Shepherd boats, saying they had taken the offensive and had hit the Nisshin Maru at least four times during refueling despite verbal warnings.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO and Afghan forces kill 25 insurgents

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO and Afghan forces have killed at least 25 insurgents and three of their commanders in separate operations around the country, Afghan and coalition officials said Wednesday. The size and scope of the latest operations were an indication that the Afghan war is far from over after 11 years of conflict, even as U.S. and foreign forces begin rapidly withdrawing and handing the lead role for security to the Afghans. Fighting is also expected to intensify as the traditional spring fighting season gets under way after the heavy snows that blanket much of northern and eastern Afghanistan starts melting.

Japan executes 3 inmates, first under new govt

TOKYO (AP)—Japan has executed three inmates convicted of murder in its first executions under the government that took office in December. The Justice Ministry said the executions were carried out early Thursday at three locations. One

of the condemned inmates killed a schoolgirl. Japan's last execution was in September. It now has 134 inmates on death row. Executions in Japan are done by hanging.

Filipino rebels storm pineapple plantation; 1 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—More than 100 communist guerrillas stormed one of the world's largest pineapple plantations in the southern Philippines, killing a guard and torching farm equipment in their biggest attack this year, officials said Wednesday. At least two other guards and a villager were shot and wounded by the New People's Army guerrillas, who barged into a residential, recreational and office complex on the vast plantation of Del Monte Philippines Inc. late Tuesday in Manolo Fortich town in Bukidnon province, Army Lt. Col. Eugenio Osias said. Shortly before the assault, the Maoist guerrillas, who were disguised as army soldiers, blocked a patrol car carrying three police officers at a bridge in Manolo Fortich and seized weapons from them, Osias said.

World

Egypt's military signals impatience with president

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's powerful military is showing signs of growing impatience with the country's Islamist leaders, indirectly criticizing their policies and issuing thinly veiled threats that it might seize power again.

The tension is raising the specter of another military intervention much like the one in 2011, when generals replaced longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak after they sided with anti-regime protesters in their 18-day popular uprising. The strains come at a time when many Egyptians are despairing of an imminent

end to the crippling political impasse between President Mohammed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood group on one side, and the mostly secular and liberal opposition on the other.

The tug of war between the two camps is being waged against a grim backdrop of spreading unrest, rising crime and a worsening economy.

"In essence, the military will not allow national stability or its own institutional privileges to come under threat from a breakdown in Egypt's social fabric or a broad-based civil strife," said Michael W.

Hanna, an Egypt expert from the New York-based Century Foundation.

"This is not an ideological army or one that seeks to destabilize civilian governance. ... But it is also not an army that will sit by while the country reaches the tipping point on the path to civil strife."

The latest friction began when a rumor circulated that Morsi planned to replace Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, his defense minister and the army chief, because of his resistance to bringing the military under the sway of the Brotherhood-dominated government.

Bolivia leader unable to visit Chavez at hospital

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Bolivian President Evo Morales said Wednesday that he was unable to meet with his friend and ally Hugo Chavez when he came to the military hospital in Caracas where the Venezuelan president is undergoing unspecified cancer treatment.

Morales had arrived at the hospital on Tuesday night along with Vice President Nicolas Maduro in a convoy of vehicles escorted by troops

on motorcycles, and the Bolivian leader left later on without speaking to journalists who were waiting outside the hospital.

"I wasn't able to meet him," Morales said at a news conference at the United Nations. "I was only able to meet the head doctor and his family, but my understanding is that they are very encouraged."

Morales added, however, that Chavez has been going through "the most difficult

moments in his life" and is still facing serious health problems. "Now that he's returned to Caracas it's a great relief," Morales said.

Chavez's return to Venezuela from Cuba was announced by the government on Monday after a 10-week stay on the island during which he underwent a fourth cancer-related surgery and treatment for complications including a severe respiratory infection.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS A&E DESIGN of the THE PUERTO RICO DUMP CLOSURE RFQ13-GOV-080

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Architectural & Engineering Design of the Puerto Rico Dump Closure Project located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A&E services required will be available on Thursday, February 21, 2013, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. Questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or fax to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m. Friday, March 08, 2013 ChST.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project descriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Qualifications and Background of the Company(s) and proposed assigned personnel | - 25% |
| 2. Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects | - 25% |
| 3. Project Approach and Schedule for Completion | - 25% |
| 4. Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required | - 25% |

Performance time for completion of the A&E redesign is One Hundred Sixty (160) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) two hundred dollars (US\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "RFQ13-GOV-080, A&E Design of the Puerto Rico Dump Closure Project". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, March 18, 2013. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, March 18, 2013, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, March 18, 2013, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than March 27, 2013 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Hirsute in a huff over Gillette ads in Brazil

SAO PAULO (AP)—Hate that hair? In Brazil, beware. A self-regulatory council for Brazil's advertising industry is looking into complaints against razor maker Gillette for running body-shaving commercials. Council spokesman Eduardo Correa says 20 consumers have filed complaints that the campaign "encourages prejudice against hairy men." The online commercials show beautiful women telling men they should shave their chests to please their girlfriends. The council's ethical committee is expected to rule on the case in 30 days. Elaine Moreira is a spokeswoman for Gillette parent company Procter & Gamble. She says the campaign was "an irreverent way to say that women prefer hairless men and that the company never meant to offend consumers."

Bottle fraud in Mich. may face harsher penalties

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Attention smugglers of empty soda cans: Stay out of Michigan, or you could face jail time. Lawmakers are taking aim at people who use out-of-state cans and bottles to cash in on Michigan's recycling refund, which pays 10 cents per container. Legislation debated Tuesday would make an attempt to return between 100 and 10,000 non-returnable containers punishable by up to 93 days in jail or \$1,000 in fines, or both. Current law sets penalties only for those who actually return fraudulent containers. Angela Madden of the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association estimates that the state loses up to \$13 million a year from out-of-state cans. She says many businesses don't have the machines that read the mark or code that indicates a container is from Michigan.

Police: Shot reported at Pa. campus was newspaper

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Police in Pennsylvania say a student's report of a gunshot being fired was instead the sound of a newspaper hitting the sidewalk. Gettysburg police Chief Joseph Dougherty says a Gettysburg College student had reported that someone in a white sedan fired a shot early Saturday morning. But Dougherty says police investigated and determined the sound came from a newspaper delivery driver throwing a paper from her vehicle. After the report, the college alerted students and employees via text messages, voicemails and emails. A college spokeswoman says an all-clear message was sent around 8:30 a.m.

Tired in Vienna? Nap for a price at new studio

VIENNA (AP)—One sleepy little side street in Vienna just got sleepier.

Tucked behind a Gothic church and surrounded by Renaissance-era houses, a new studio is offering deal-makers, movers and shakers and foot-sore tourists respite at a price: a half-hour power nap for 11 euros (\$15).

But Reflexia is more than just a place for shut-eye. The establishment's massive arches and thick walls built centuries ago act as if they were made specifically to protect from the outside world, and visitors who cross its threshold are offered soft mood music; a heaping plate of prosciutto with chunky bread; coffee, tea and soft drinks, and a wake-up that is personal—and gentle.

"People know sleep as a need but not as a product," owner Peter Schurin says. "Our task is to change that in some ways."

Schurin describes his establishment as "a fitness center for the spirit," and his business model

might be well-timed, even if the Austrian capital is anything but an edgy city that never sleeps.

Most stores here are closed on Sundays. On Fridays, the work day ends at 3 p.m., or earlier, judging from the traffic jams clogging the main arteries out of the city of 1.8 million. In fact, Vienna regularly tops Mercier surveys as the world's most livable city in part because of its outsized calm factor.

At the same time, Austria's status in Europe as an "Island of the Blessed" is being eroded by the kind of work-related stress common to other Western societies.

A study last year involving doctors, unions and employers estimated that stress-related illnesses are costing Austria's economy 7 billion euros—almost \$9.5 billion a year—in treatment and absences of its 3.7-million strong work force. Michael Munsalek, head of Vienna's Anton Proksch medical institute, says



In this picture taken Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013 a woman rests at the Reflexia studio in Vienna, Austria.

the number of burn-out victims "is steadily growing."

Enter Schurin and his establishment.

Services at Reflexia range in cost and substance. The 11-euro, half-hour cat nap takes place in

a dim room where black leather loungers are separated by Japanese folding screens; a one-hour snooze in a private chamber can be purchased for 40 euros (\$60).

Those who can't sleep can play computer games, grab a

book off the club room's shelf or just sit back and relax with a drink and a bite for 6 euros (\$8) an hour.

The only thing missing so far? Sleepy customers.

On Tuesday, a day after the grand opening, candles were burning and the Italian ham was waiting—but the couches were empty except for one.

On it was Gundula Schatz, who described herself as both a client and a prospective partner looking to offer yoga courses at the establishment. Asked how her couch felt, she replied "like in seventh heaven!"

Schurin says he's patient.

"While we were still building with all the mess and dust, people passed by and saw the word 'sleep' ... and turned to me and said, 'Can I sleep here?' And I said 'Yes, but please wait until we're open.'

Woman, 104, forced to lie about age on Facebook

GROSSE POINTE SHORES, Mich. (AP)—Facebook is apologizing for a problem that makes a 104-year-old Michigan woman lie about her age on the social media website.

Marguerite Joseph's granddaughter says Facebook won't let Joseph list her real age.

Gail Marlow says when she tries inputting her grandmother's birth year as 1908, Facebook changes it to 1928. So for the past two years, the Grosse Pointe Shores centenarian has

remained 99—online, anyway.

Joseph is legally blind and can't hear well, but Marlow reads and responds to all her Facebook messages.

Marlow tells WDIV-TV (<http://bit.ly/Y7HQM2>) she'd "love to see" Joseph's real age posted and chalks it up to "a glitch in the system."

Facebook spokesman Andrew Noyes told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it's working to fix a problem limiting use of pre-1910 birthdates.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY DLC. BUMANGLAG,
Plaintiff,
-v-

LINDA DLC. TOVES, CONSOLATION DLC. TOVES, ANA C. DELA CRUZ, ANTONIO C. DELA CRUZ, RAMON C. DELA CRUZ, JOSEPHINE P. DELA CRUZ, and the Estate of MANUEL T. DELA CRUZ, deceased
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 00-0275

SIXTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on January 26, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Tract No. 21729, situated in D-Denni, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 46,660 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2038/72, registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7912, dated January 23, 1979.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,
Plaintiff,
-v-

RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338
Plaintiff,
-v-

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 8, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EDWIN REYES [Petitioner,]
DELA CRUZ []
vs. []

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0567
[]
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
[]

ANGELINA MINULUAN []
DELA CRUZ []
Respondent. []

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505184 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

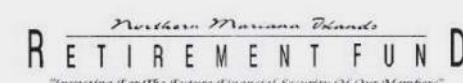
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 8, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA 13-004

CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking a professional and motivated individual to work in a challenging environment as Legal Counsel for the Fund. Salaries will be based on qualification and experience. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with CNMI laws.

Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance and others as outlined in the JVA package. The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, by e-mail through the Fund Administrator; or the Fund's website at www.nmiretirement.com. Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA 13-004 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope. Please address your application submission to:

Lillian M. Pangilinan, Acting Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.No. (670) 234-6245 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
email: administration@cda.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION VACANCY: Loan Officer IV
ANNUAL SALARY: \$24,889.35 – 30,246.74

This position is a senior level position responsible for developing new business, underwriting, restructuring, closing of loans, maintaining and servicing existing loan portfolios. The position requires the individual to participate in marketing CDA's loan programs and services and explore other funding resources and opportunities to leverage CDA's funds. The individual must possess a high degree of knowledge and comprehension in economics, finance, and business and is required to maintain a reasonable relationship with clients and provide technical assistance within his or her capacity.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from college with a Bachelor's degree in finance, economics, or related business field, plus five (5) years of experience in professional level commercial real estate lending, financial and credit analysis work or related field.

A detail duties and responsibilities and employment application may be obtained at the CDA Office, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) or CDA's website at www.cda.gov.mp. Applications **must be submitted to the OPM** by Friday, March 1, 2013 closing date.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at 234-6245 ext.310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Science & Technology

Skyfall: Meteorites strike Earth every few months

By FRANK JORDANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN (AP)—A meteor exploded in the sky above Russia's Ural Mountains Friday last week, causing a shockwave that blew out countless windows and injured more than a thousand people. Here's a look at those objects in the sky:

Q: What's the difference between a meteor and a meteorite?

A: Meteors are pieces of space rock, usually from larger comets or asteroids, which enter the Earth's atmosphere. Many are burned up by friction and the heat of the atmosphere, but those that survive and strike the Earth are called meteorites. They often hit the ground at tremendous speed—up to 30,000 kilometers an hour (18,650 mph)—releasing a huge amount of energy, according to the European Space Agency.

Q: How often do meteorites hit Earth?

A: Experts say smaller strikes happen five to 10 times a year. Large meteors such as the one in Russia last Friday are rarer, but still occur about every five years, according to Addi Bischoff, a mineralogist at the University of Muenster in Germany. Most of them fall over uninhabited areas where they don't injure humans.

Q: How big was Friday's meteor and why did it cause so many injuries?

A: Before it entered the atmosphere, the meteor was about 15 meters (49 feet) in diameter and had a mass of about 7,000 tons, NASA says.

The space agency also says the fireball from it, which was



AP PHOTO/CHELYABINSK.RU

In this photo provided by Chelyabinsk.ru a meteorite contrail is seen over Chelyabinsk on Friday, Feb. 15, 2013. A meteor streaked across the sky of Russia's Ural Mountains on Friday morning, causing sharp explosions and reportedly injuring around 100 people, including many hurt by broken glass.

brighter than the sun, is the biggest reported in more than a century, since a 1908 event in Siberia. The blast released the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of tons of TNT. The huge release of energy shattered windows and sent loose objects flying.

The blast produced 20 times or more the explosive force of the U.S. bomb dropped over Hiroshima during World War II. But the bomb detonated just 2,000 feet above a densely populated city, while the Russian fireball exploded miles in the air, reducing the potential damage.

Q: Is there any link between this meteor and the larger asteroid that passed Earth later on Friday?

A: No, it's just cosmic coincidence. According to NASA, the trajectory of the Russian

meteorite was significantly different from that of asteroid 2012 DA14. "In videos of the meteor, it is seen to pass from left to right in front of the rising sun, which means it was traveling from north to south. Asteroid DA14's trajectory is in the opposite direction, from south to north," the U.S. space agency said.

Q: When was the last event like this?

A: In 2008, astronomers spotted a meteor similar to the one in Russia heading toward Earth about 20 hours before it entered the atmosphere. It exploded over the vast African nation of Sudan, causing no known injuries.

The largest known meteor in recent times caused the "Tunguska event"—flattening thousands of square miles of forest in remote Siberia in 1908. Nobody was injured by the meteor blast, or by the Sikhote-Alin meteorite that fell in eastern Siberia in 1947.

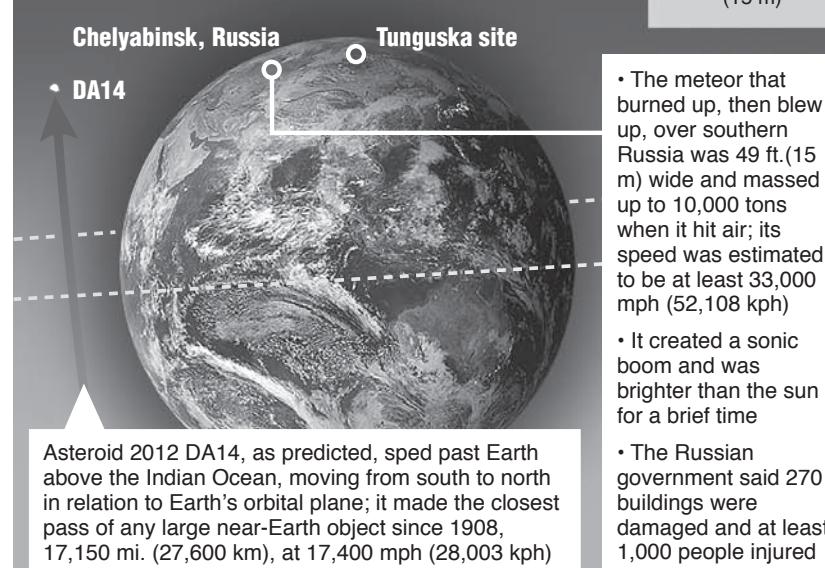
Scientists believe that a far larger meteorite strike on what today is Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula may have been responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs about 66 million years ago. According to that theory, the impact would have thrown up vast amounts of dust that blanketed the sky for decades and altered the climate on Earth.

Q: What can scientists learn from Friday's strike?

A: Bischoff says scientists and treasure hunters are probably already racing to find pieces of the space rock. Some meteorites can be very valuable, selling for up to \$670 per gram, depending on their origin and composition. Because meteors have remained largely unchanged for billions of years—unlike rocks on Earth affected by erosion and volcanic outbreaks—scientists will study the fragments to learn more about the early universe.

Rocks from space

On Feb 15, two of the Solar System's myriad rocky objects visited Earth the same day. One guest was expected – astronomers spotted it last year, but the meteor that fragmented over Russia was a surprise, one that caused hundreds of injuries from flying glass and debris. It rattled nerves and damaged buildings as well.



How big were these objects?

The Russian rock, the mysterious Tunguska object of 1908 and DA14, in scale to a football field

Russian rock
49 ft.
(15 m)

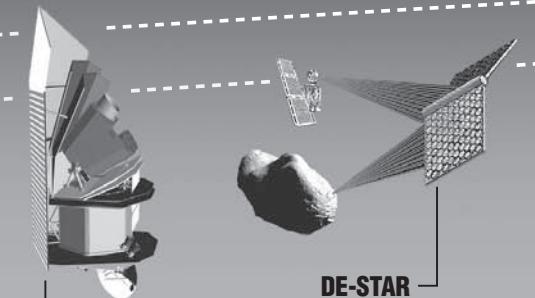
Tunguska object
130 ft.
(40 m)

DA14
150 ft.
(46 m)

Boeing 747
232 ft.
(71 m)

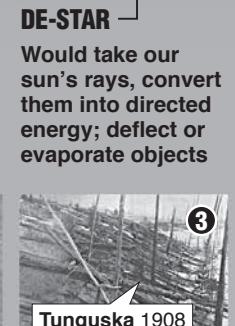
Can we protect the Earth from these things?

Some say yes, with infrared telescopes to detect objects and lasers to deflect them



Sentinel proposal

Space-based telescope specifically designed to catalog dangerous objects



Graphic: Robert Dorell © 2013 MCT

Science Matters

Humans evolved with a weapon

The human hand can swing a heavy hammer and handle a thin needle, but it can also – quite unlike the other primates' hands – make a fist for fighting.

Human and ape grip differently

Human: Shorter fingers and palm; Longer fingers can grasp branches easily; Thumb less able to grip against index finger.

Chimpanzee: Longer, stronger, more flexible thumb.

Fist locks hand

- 1 Fingertips touch pad at top of palm
- 2 Base of thumb locks fingers into palm
- 3 Thumb wraps over three finger

Fist strikes with bony part of hand

Source: David Carrier of University of Utah, MCT Photo Service © 2013 MCT **Graphic:** Helen Lee McCormas

5 ways to keep a smartphone secure

By SCOTT WILSON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Your smartphone carries a lot of things that an identity thief would love to have: stored passwords to online accounts, banking information, email addresses and phone numbers. How can you make sure your phone's private data stays private? Adam Levin, co-founder of the Identity Theft 911 website and former director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, offers these tips:

■ Lock your phone with a password.

It's the most basic security step, but one that some people skip. Yes, a hacker could break in anyway, but they may not want to bother. "Most bad guys will simply move on to the next—easier—target," Levin noted.

"It's a lot easier for a thief to steal a smartphone with no password than it is to work on cracking your phone."

■ When shopping on your phone, use an application

rather than your browser.

Most major retail sites offer dedicated shopping applications that help shield you from fraudulent phishing sites and other scammer tricks, Levin said. Just be sure it's the official app before you download it.

■ Log out.

When you're done checking your credit card balance or checking account, be sure to sign out. "And never click the box asking the app to save your user ID or password," Levin suggested.

■ Connect to Wi-Fi only when you need it.

Turn off the feature on your phone (or laptop or tablet) that automatically connects you to any nearby Wi-Fi network, Levin recommended. If you don't, "hackers with the right software can easily hack your phone." And close your Bluetooth connection when you're done.

■ Delete all personal data before selling or donating your old phone.

Look in the settings for an option to "erase all content," "factory data reset" or something similar.

Life & Style

Mumford & Sons, Adele among winners at Brit Awards

LONDON (AP)—British music put on a brash, confident show at the Brit Awards on Wednesday, celebrating a resurgent industry whose bands and artists are topping charts around the globe.

Winners ranged from established acts such as Coldplay and Adele to world-conquering boy band One Direction, who won in the new Global Success category.

One Direction's Louis Tomlinson called the prize "absolutely mind-blowing."

American artists Frank Ocean and Lana Del Rey were among the non-British winners at a ceremony that embraced the mainstream while rewarding artists with distinctive personalities.

Surfing English folk singer Ben Howard and chanteuse Emeli Sande each won two awards.

Sande was named best British female artist and won the album of the year prize for her debut "Our Version of Events," which has been in the British charts for more than a year. Scotland-raised Sande got a big boost in 2012 when she performed at both the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics.

"This is a dream, really," said Sande, who beat Alt-J, Mum-



From left, Ted Dwane, Marcus Mumford, Country Winston, and Ben Lovett of British band Mumford and Sons seen arriving at the BRIT Awards 2013 at the o2 Arena in London on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013. AP

ford & Sons, Plan B and Paloma Faith to the album prize. She thanked everyone "who made me feel like I'm part of something much bigger."

Howard was named British breakthrough act and British male artist of the year.

"I'm not very good at speeches," the 25-year-old singer said, accurately—though he may have to get good at it if his ca-

reer continues to take off.

Long derided as dull, the Brits have become a lively celebration of "Cool Britannia" music and style, featuring a dinner for hundreds of artists and industry figures followed by a televised concert and awards show for thousands of paying fans.

Hard rockers Muse opened the show at London's O2 Arena with a typically robust

performance of their song "Supremacy"—all thundering music, dazzling light show and 60-piece orchestra. Other performers ranged from tween-pleasing One Direction to American artists Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake.

Timberlake, dapper in a tuxedo as he performed "Mirrors," was described by host James Corden, in a nod to Europe's

horse meat scandal, as "95 percent beefcake with just a little touch of horse."

One Direction performed a mashup of post-punk classics "One Way or Another" and "Teenage Kicks," their single for Britain's Comic Relief charity.

Mumford & Sons were named best British group. The banjo-twanging band topped U.K. and U.S. charts with their second album "Babel," which was named album of the year at the Grammys earlier this month.

Soul singer Amy Winehouse—who died in July 2011 from accidental alcohol poisoning—was among the other nominees for British female artist, eligible thanks to her posthumous "Lioness: Hidden Treasures" album. Her father, Mitch Winehouse, arrived for the awards ceremony at London's O2 Arena wearing a waistcoat emblazoned with a picture of his daughter.

Coldplay was named best British live act, beating nominees including The Rolling Stones, who celebrated their 50th anniversary with a series of sold-out shows last year.

Adele won the best British single prize for her James Bond theme "Skyfall." The

soulful singer sent a message from Los Angeles, where she is rehearsing for Sunday's Academy Awards.

There was no repeat of last year, when she was cut-off mid-speech because the show was running late—an incident Corden referred to in mock-embarrassment several times.

WINNERS LIST

LONDON (AP)—Winners of the 2013 Brit Awards, announced Wednesday:

- British Female—Emeli Sande
- British Group—Mumford & Sons
- British Breakthrough Act—Ben Howard
- British Male—Ben Howard
- Critics' Choice—Tom Odell
- International Female—Lana Del Rey
- British Live Act—Coldplay
- British Single—"Skyfall," Adele
- International Group—The Black Keys
- International Male—Frank Ocean
- Special Recognition Award—Warchild
- British Album—Emeli Sande, "Our Version of Events"
- Global Success—One Direction

Clive Davis talks bisexuality, Dylan, Whitney and more

By RANDALL ROBERTS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Among the dozens of musical luminaries referenced in record man Clive Davis' new autobiography, "The Soundtrack of My Life," are a number of wild cards and surprises. Yes, Davis devotes pages to his close affiliations with Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, Sly Stone, Patti Smith, Aretha Franklin, Santana, Whitney Houston and Alicia Keys.

But fans of rock history will be equally transfixed by some of the little details.

Davis' success over 50 years as an executive with the Columbia, Arista, BMG, J Records and Sony record labels has made him the face of the recording establishment. A smart, shrewd businessman whose ear for hits is legendary, Davis in "The Soundtrack of My Life" rolls through his career, artist by artist, deal by deal, classic album by classic album. He's got some stories.

For example, Davis' first job was as a lawyer at Columbia Records, home to a young Bob Dylan, who had wanted to include a song called "Talking John Birch Society Blues" on his 1963 album "The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan." The song was a critique of a then-thriving right wing political group, and



Davis

of his illustrious career as a hit maker.

He also gets personal, publicly revealing that he's bisexual, and has over the past two decades been in two long-term relationships with men, as well as other sorts of relationships. "There were married couples, gay couples, and single men and women, both straight and gay." He treats this news with the same directness as he does with other aspects of his life.

Davis also had a long relationship with the Grateful Dead, who would release late-period studio albums with his then-new label Arista. Years earlier, though, he had tried to woo them to Columbia, and describes a memorable meeting with the band to brainstorm ideas in 1972.

Writes Davis, "One of their

interesting solutions to getting around the record-label distribution system was to sell their albums directly to consumers through a fleet of ice cream trucks. Without insulting them, I tried to impress upon them just how impractical and inefficient that system would be. That was one notion they eventually abandoned."

The most bittersweet and heartbreaking chapters regard Davis' signing of a teenage Whitney Houston to Arista. He goes through his life with the late singer, whom he helped make an international superstar and one of the best selling recording artists of all time.

Davis reprints a number of letters he wrote to Houston over the years, including both generous appraisals of her work and stern, yet loving, expressions of concern over her well-being. One note, written after Houston appeared during a concert at Madison Square Garden in 2001, Davis writes, "She looked skeletal."

He then wrote her a letter that started, "When I saw you Friday night at the Michael Jackson concert I gasped. When I got home, I cried. My dear, dear Whitney, the time has come." He then pleads with her to get help, explaining that he and her family love her, and it's hurting everyone. "Our anguish, our fear, our pain is just too much to bear. You must get help for yourself and for your close extended family."

In Loving Memory of

Jose Santos Jr.

Lovingly known as "Pepe"

March 5, 1930 - February 20, 2013

Our Beloved Tatay...
A most beautiful memory, dearer than gold,
Of a Father whose worth can never be told,
There's a place in our hearts no one can fill,
We miss you, Tatay and always will.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer,
Guide our Tatay with most tender care,
Love him in heaven as we did at home,
The Dearest Father this world could hold.

His memories will live forever in the hearts of his:
Wife: Aurelia 'Auring' Santos

Children and Families:

- Miriam and Nathan Forrester
- Helen and Moises Castillo (Jett Kevin & Susan, Jac Jasmin, Dave Nicolas 'Biboy')
- Jojo and Lynn Santos (Joshua Santos)
- Joanne and Bernard Paraiso (Joanie, Joseph and Brianna Mae Paraiso)

Nightly Rosary is offered at 7:30 pm at the Santos' Residence, Baranda Lane, San Vicente

Memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

Aurelia "Auring" Santos, Children & Families

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Snitch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Dwayne Johnson stars as a father who seeks revenge after his son is convicted of a crime he did not commit in this Lionsgate release from director Ric Roman Waugh. Susan Sarandon, Barry Pepper, and Benjamin Bratt head up the rest of the starring cast.



Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday	4:00	9:45
Saturday	4:00	9:45
Sunday	4:00	
Mon through Thurs	4:00	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Astronaut Scorch Supernova finds himself caught in a trap when he responds to an SOS from a notoriously dangerous alien planet.



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday	7:00
Saturday	1:00
Sunday	1:00
Mon through Thurs	7:00

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Good Day To Die Hard

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney
Genre: Action • Rated R

Synopsis

The story is set in Russia and begins with John McClane heading to Moscow to sweet talk some cops into letting his apparently-wayward son out of jail for something he did, but when he gets there, things surrounding his son's arrest are not as they appear and world-threatening terrorist hijinks ensue.



Beautiful Creatures

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs	4:30	7:30	

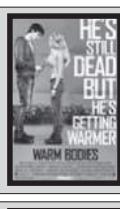
Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Safe Haven

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel, David Lyons
Genre: Romance • Rated PG 13



Warm Bodies

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich
Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R

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Palestinian director held briefly at LA airport

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Immigration officials briefly detained the Palestinian director of the Oscar-nominated documentary “5 Broken Cameras” on his way into town for Sunday’s Academy Awards.

Emad Burnat says that when he arrived at Los Angeles International Airport from Turkey with his wife and 8-year-old son late Tuesday, agents told them they didn’t have the proper proof that he was a nominee and would send them back if they couldn’t verify the reason for their visit. After about an hour of questioning, the agents allowed Burnat and his family to enter the country.

Oscar-winning documentarian Michael Moore said on his website that he helped clear up the matter by making some phone calls on Burnat’s behalf.

Burnat had just been in the United States two weeks earlier doing interviews about the film alongside his co-director, Israeli activist Guy Davidi, including some with The Associated Press.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that it is prohibited from discussing specific cases, but noted that in general, “travelers may be referred for further inspection for a variety of reasons to include identity verification, intent of travel and confirmation of admissibility.”



This undated publicity photo released by Kino Lorber, Inc. shows Co-director Emad Burnat with his five broken cameras.

Moore, a friend of Burnat’s and a champion of his work, wrote on his website, michaelmoore.com, that Burnat texted him from an airport holding area seeking help. Moore said he made a few calls to leaders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, who contacted some attorneys to clear up the matter. The Academy did not respond to a request for comment on Burnat’s detainment.

“5 Broken Cameras,” the first Palestinian documentary ever nominated for an Oscar, already has won awards at the Sundance

Film Festival and the Cinema Eye Honors. It features footage that the olive farmer-turned-filmmaker shot using five cameras in his occupied West Bank village of Bil’in, from everyday activities with his family to protests and shootings. The son with whom he is traveling, Gibreel, was the inspiration for buying the first of these cameras in 2005; like so many parents, Burnat wanted to document the boy’s first steps and smiles.

But he also found himself wanting to capture the tension and fighting that are daily occurrences in the struggle for territory. In the film, his cameras keep getting destroyed in the violence.

Because of his experiences, Burnat said in a statement Wednesday, he’s gotten used to the kind of questioning he and his family underwent at LAX.

“There are more than 500 Israeli checkpoints, roadblocks, and other barriers to movement across our land, and not a single one of us has been spared the experience that my family and I experienced yesterday,” he said. “Ours was a very minor example of what my people face every day.”

On Twitter, a peanut gallery mocks the Oscars

NEW YORK (AP)—You can simply tune into the Oscars. Or you can watch them with the peanut gallery on Twitter.

While Hollywood parades in tuxedos and gowns, grandly celebrating itself, a freewheeling cacophony of quips and sarcasm—something like a digital, million-times multiplied version of those balcony Muppet onlookers, Statler and Waldorf—will provide a welcome and riotous counter-narrative to the pomp.

The second-screen experience is never better than on Oscar night, when a separate (and some might say superior) entertainment experience plays out on social media. The running commentary, in which comedians and others parody the glamorous stars and their sometimes laughable speeches, has become as central to the Academy Awards as the red carpet.

“Following the Oscars on Twitter is like watching the show with one hundred million of your drunkest friends,” says Andy Borowitz, the humorist and author who’s often been a standout tweeter on Oscar night. Last year, he succinctly summarized the previous two best-picture winners, “The King’s Speech” and “The Artist,” as “an English dude who couldn’t speak” and “a French dude no one could hear.”

Live tweeting major TV events, from the Super Bowl to the Grammy Awards, has been

come engrained in our viewing by now, forming a virtual water cooler that has boosted ratings. But the Academy Awards stream is particularly captivating because it provides an antidote to the on-screen, buttoned-down glamour. It’s as if there’s not an “SAP” button on your remote, but a “YUKS” one, bringing you play-by-play from some of the funniest people in cyberspace. Comedians assemble as if by duty.

“You gotta say something. Someone has to say something,” says comedian Billy Eichner. “To just stand by and watch it happen is almost too tense. It’s cathartic. You’ve got to just get it out on Twitter because if not, we’re all going to be bottled up thinking about how awkward Anne Hathaway made it for one billion people in real time. I don’t begrudge her the award; I’m just saying she’s a ridiculous person.”

As host of Funny or Die’s “Billy on the Street,” which airs on Fuse, Eichner aggressively and comically interviews passersby about pop culture. So he’s particularly adept at expressing all-caps mockery when it comes to the stars of Hollywood. In the awards circuit leading up to the Oscars, he’s zeroed in on Anne Hathaway, the odds-on favorite to win best supporting actress for her performance in “Les Misérables.”

In Hathaway, Eichner recognizes a great actress, but also a

driving theater geek. Nothing is funnier, he says, “than the mix of ego and lack of self-awareness, like Jodie Foster’s Golden Globes speech.”

“Ultimately, it’s just fun because the whole thing is so ridiculous,” says Eichner. “It’s like, why not comment on it? What is it even there for other than to be commented on?”

The Oscars has become one of the biggest social media events of the year. Last year’s telecast at one point set a then-record for 18,718 tweets-per-second. A statuette could be handed out for a new award: most tweeted tweet. In 2011, that honor went to The Onion, which lamented: “How rude—not a single character from Toy Story 3 bothered to show up.”

Last year, “The Artist” may have won best picture, but Martin Scorsese’s “Hugo” easily bested it with 110,179 tweets to 78,509 for “The Artist,” according to Twitter metrics analyst TweetReach.

This year, the academy has partnered with Twitter to track the top categories with an index measuring the percentage of positive tweets about the nominees. Leading as of Tuesday wasn’t the favorite “Argo,” nor was it Steven Spielberg’s “Lincoln,” but rather David O. Russell’s “Silver Linings Playbook.”

So if the film, widely considered the dark horse in the best picture race, wins on Sunday, Twitter will have predicted it.

When the 85th annual Academy Awards air Sunday on ABC, countless comedians and others at home will be ready on their mobile phones and laptops with tweets to skewer.

“I just pray we all survive Anne Hathaway’s acceptance speech,” says Eichner. “And, to be honest, I have my doubts.”

Tyson sues Live Nation over alleged embezzlement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mike Tyson sued a financial services firm owned by Live Nation Entertainment on Wednesday, claiming one of its advisers embezzled more than \$300,000 from the former heavyweight champ and cost him millions more in lost earnings.

The lawsuit claims that Live Nation and its company SFX Financial Advisory Management Enterprises haven't given the boxer and his wife, Lakiha, a full accounting of their losses. The company returned some of the embezzled money but wanted the Tysons to sign a nondisclosure agreement, which they refused, the suit states.

The lawsuit seeks more than \$5 million in damages for breach of fiduciary duty, negligent hiring, unjust enrichment and other claims.

A spokeswoman for Live Nation Entertainment Inc. said the company had not been served with the lawsuit and could not comment on it.



In this June 18, 2012 file photo, former heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson announces "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth" a one man show on Broadway, in New York.

The lawsuit claims the embezzlement prevented the Tysons from emerging from bankruptcy, and forced them to hire new advisers and turn down lucrative contracts. The couple trusted Brian Ourand, their adviser at SFX, so much that he attended their wedding, the case states.

Ourand, who could not be reached for comment, has since left SFX, according to the lawsuit. The filings claim his conduct has not been reported to regulators.

"Defendants did not secure, protect, safeguard and appropriately apply the Tysons' finances for their intended purposes," the case states, "but instead misappropriated said funds for the benefit and enrichment of SFX/Live Nation."

The former boxer has broadened his career in recent years. He appeared in "The Hangover" and is leading a one-man autobiographical show, "Undisputed Truth."

Hudson, Zeta-Jones and Crowe to sing at Oscars

LOS ANGELES—Oscar producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron have announced that three Academy Award-winning actors—Jennifer Hudson ("Dreamgirls"), Catherine Zeta-Jones ("Chicago") and Russell Crowe ("Gladiator"), who is currently in "Les Misérables"—will be performing Sunday at

the ceremony in a celebration honoring movie musicals of the last decade.

The three will be joining the stars of "Les Misérables," Oscar nominees Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway, along with Amanda Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne, Aaron Tveit, Samantha Banks and Helena Bonham

Carter in the tribute to "Les Misérables," "Dreamgirls" and "Chicago," which was the last musical to win the best picture Oscar.

"We are pleased to have been able to amass so much talent to create the celebration of musicals of the last decade that we envisioned," Zadan and Meron said in a statement Wednesday.

"We are thrilled that so many talented actors have agreed to bring our vision to life."

Besides the musicals tribute, the producers have also lined up Adele, Dame Shirley Bassey, Norah Jones and Barbra Streisand to perform on the Oscar telecast Sunday evening at the Dolby Theatre. (*Los Angeles Times*)

Schwarzenegger says new film has universal appeal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—For his first starring role since before serving as California's governor for seven years, Arnold Schwarzenegger says he was looking for a film with universal appeal.

In "The Last Stand," Schwarzenegger plays the sheriff of an Arizona town tasked



with stopping a Mexican cartel boss from returning to Mexico. It's the 65-year-old's first

leading role since "Terminator 3" a decade ago.

He said in Seoul on Wednesday that he tries to pick projects that "could be popular not only in America, but all over the world."

"The Last Stand," the debut Hollywood film of South Korean director Kim Jee-woon, opens in Seoul on Thursday. Schwarzenegger recalled his memories of South Korea from his bodybuilding days, saying "it's a major player in the world stage economically and in every other way."

Young actress from Congo granted visa for Oscars

NEW YORK (AP)—The 16-year-old star of the Oscar-nominated "War Witch" has been granted a visa to travel from Congo for the Academy Awards.

The film's distributor, Tribeca Film, said Wednesday that Rachel Mwanza (MWAHN'-zuh) will be able to attend upcoming award shows, including Sunday's Oscars.

"War Witch," directed by Montreal filmmaker Kim Nguyen (WIN), is nominated for best foreign language film as Canada's submission.

Shot entirely in the Congo, Mwanza was cast despite no prior acting experience. She had been living at her grandmother's house and on the streets before Nguyen picked her to play a child soldier caught up in an unspecified African revolution.

Mwanza won best actress at both the Berlin Film Festival and the Tribeca Film Festival last year. "War Witch" opens in New York theaters March 1.



This undated file image released by Item 7 shows Rachel Mwanza in a scene from "War Witch."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

O'Reilly book on Jesus killing coming in September

NEW YORK (AP)—After million-selling books on the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, Fox News host Bill O'Reilly is turning to the most famous killing of all. O'Reilly's "Killing Jesus: A History" will be published on Sept. 24. Publisher Henry Holt and Co. announced Wednesday night O'Reilly will collaborate on the book with Martin Dugard, his co-author for "Killing Lincoln" and "Killing Ken-

nedy." O'Reilly has written or co-written several best-sellers, including "Pinheads and Patriots" and "A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity."

'For Better or Worse' moves from TBS to OWN

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's cable channel says it will be the new home of the sitcom "For Better or Worse." Tyler Perry's comedy series will move from TBS to OWN for its third season, starting this fall. OWN announced Wednesday that it's also get-

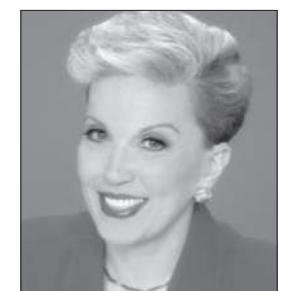
ting rerun rights for the show's first two years. "For Better or Worse" is about three couples dealing with the challenges of dating and married life. OWN says the original cast, including Tasha Smith and Michael Jai White, will remain with the show. Production on season three begins in April. The comedy will be OWN's third scripted series from Perry, who has a deal with OWN to produce TV shows and other projects. The first two original series, a sitcom and a drama, are scheduled to debut in May.

Fraud investigator is mortified by his wife's arrest for fraud

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife of six years was recently arrested for wire fraud, involving the receipt of unemployment benefits. She was receiving money when she should not have been. I knew she had applied for benefits since she was laid off; however, I was not aware that she was falsifying documents in order to receive the benefits.

I feel hurt, betrayed and offended. I am a retired law enforcement officer and currently an independent fraud investigator. Our relationship had been on the rocks for some time prior to this humiliating event. How do I handle this mess?



Dear Abby

BETRAYED IN FLORIDA

DEAR BETRAYED: The first thing to do is realize that your wife's indiscretions are a reflection only on her character, not yours. Then let the law take its course, and once you have cooled off, decide rationally if you want to continue a marriage that has been "on the rocks for some time."

■ ■ ■
DEAR ABBY: Before my daughter turned 18, she followed the court's visitation specifics, as her brother does. Now that she's 18, she doesn't call or come over at all. She won't answer phone calls, so I text her. She'll respond with one-word answers—"yes," "no," "maybe."

It doesn't bother me that she chooses to live this way. She's an adult. I sent her money for her birthday. She didn't acknowledge it. If I text invitations to her, I still don't hear from her.

She doesn't go to college, doesn't drive, doesn't have a job and lives off her enabling mother. According to her brother, she plays video games all night and sleeps all day.

After her birthday silence, should I continue sending her money for occasions? The lack of respect makes me think not, but my love for her says I should. Is there a lesson to be taught, or do I continue dropping a check in the mail twice a year? The money is insignificant. Learning respect, I believe, is important.

DAD IN BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

DEAR DAD: It doesn't bother you that your daughter chooses to live this way? That she doesn't work, doesn't go to school, plays video games all night and sleeps all day? Is she on drugs? Suffering from severe depression?

Your daughter's behavior is not normal. You have described a young woman in serious need of counseling to bring her back to reality. If you love your daughter, forget the etiquette lesson and help her to get the psychological help she needs.

■ ■ ■
DEAR ABBY: When I was 17, I was checked into a psychiatric hospital for severe depression and a suicide attempt. While I was there I met "Jim," a boy who was there for the same reasons. To make a long story short, we kept in touch and now we're dating. We benefitted from the experience and are good for each other.

The catch is that he lives more than an hour away from me. We see each other frequently, but friends often ask how we met and we don't know how to answer the question. Generally, we say something vague about how we have known each other for a long time, but some people continue to press. Neither of us wants to advertise that we spent time in a psych ward. How can we gracefully sidestep the question?

DODGING THE QUESTION IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR DODGING: It is difficult to sidestep a question that is asked so frequently in the course of conversation—especially if a couple seems compatible. Because you would rather not be specific, just say you met in a teen counseling group a few years ago. It's the truth—you were being counseled.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby*, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



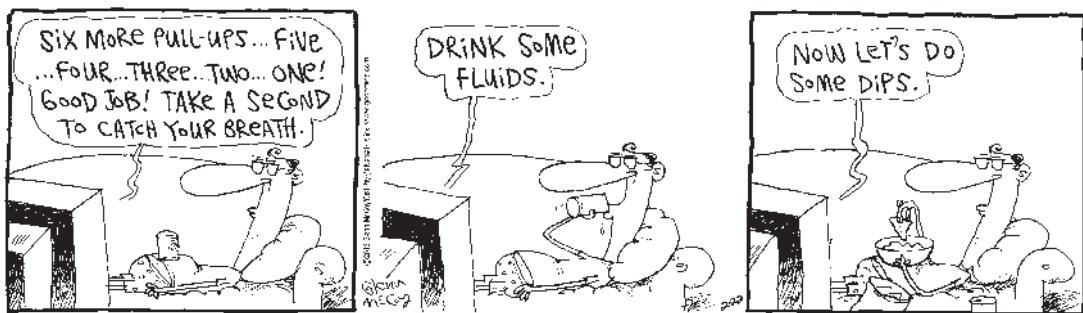
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

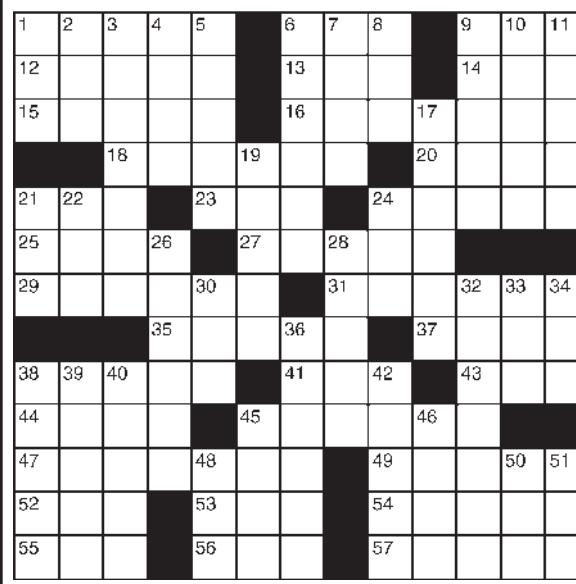
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Go around the world?	DOWN	19	Sailor's "Halt!"
1 Woodsy home	41	Wager	21	Cyber-address	
6 Buddy	43	Table scrap	22	Air safety org.	
9 Lawyers' org.	44	Gaucho's weapon	24	Mid-May honoree	
12 Russian pancakes	45	Antenna	26	Soap opera, e.g.	
13 — -la-la!"	47	Green field?	28	Harder to find	
14 CSA soldier	49	Amorphous masses	30	Deteriorate	
15 Big name in porcelain	52	Reggae-like music	32	Fauna study	
16 Expression of regret	53	Tiny er's	33	Bobby of hockey	
18 Find	54	Dutch cry	34	Trawler need	
20 Flightless flock	55	NYC hrs. "The"	36	Followed orders	
21 E.T.'s transport	56	Acid"	38	Not just chubby	
23 Previous night	57	Secret ren-dezvous	39	Ice cubes, slangily	
24 Where-withal			40	Swell	
25 Tatters			42	Snug	
27 Robin Hood's missile			45	Census data	
29 Tiers			46	Winged	
31 Big river			48	Fly-by-night?	
35 Helicopter part			50	Clear the tables	
37 Bygone times			51	Collection	

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-22



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Barrymore, 38; Thomas Jane, 44; Jeri Ryan, 45; Kyle MacLachlan, 54

Happy Birthday: Taking part in activities that will allow you to expand your circle of friends will lead to greater wisdom and opportunities for you to use your intuitive and creative mind. Concentrate on ideas, services and plans that can lead to greater prosperity and recognition. You will learn as you go, surprising anyone who underestimates your talent. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 24, 36, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You might want to take a step back and observe what's going on around you before making a move. You'll gain insight into the real cause behind your dissatisfaction and be able to scrape your way to a better position. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The adjustments you make at home or to your business partnerships will bring good results. Offering suggestions will draw interest from someone who can influence the way you advance. Focus on originality. ☀️☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll feel compelled to speak up, but you must also be prepared to suffer the consequences. Not everyone will agree with you, but you will know who you can trust and who you cannot. Build a strong alliance and don't back down. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You've got all the right moves and you know exactly what to say. Broaden your horizons by participating in conversations and events that

can bring you in contact with interesting people and ideas. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions will surface, leading to confusion if you don't control your actions. You are best to make changes within, not overt moves for all to see. Bide your time and concentrate on what you need to accomplish. Make improvements to your home. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen carefully. You will be able to improve a partnership if you are practical. Making demands or letting others dictate what you can do will only make matters worse. Creative ideas will help sway someone to your way of thinking. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tell it like it is and prepare to make changes that will suit you better. A good deed can turn into a profitable service. Use your skills, talents and insights, and you will find your niche. Romance is in the stars. ☀️☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow your heart and a creative path that will bring you satisfaction. A passionate presentation will help you enlist the help you need. An unusual change at home will help you prosper. ☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll receive confusing signals from the people you deal with. You are best to ask direct questions before you move forward with your plans, or it may end up costing you emotionally and financially. Adapt to domestic changes. ☀️☀️

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Contact people from your past. You will gain from the information you gather and the memories that are brought to your attention. An old relationship could turn into a new partnership with a potential for prosperity. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Size up your current financial situation and look for ways to raise your income. A job change can lead to good fortune. You can talk your way into something good using detail and refurbished ideas. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Network, socialize and get your point and ideas across to those you feel might have an interest in your endeavors. Don't elaborate too much or your thoughts will be interpreted as being impossible. Stick to practicality instead. ☀️☀️☀️

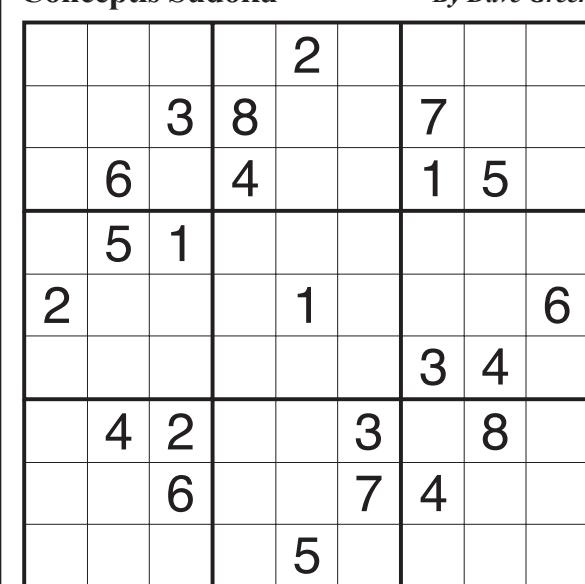
Birthday Baby: You express your opinions and plans effortlessly. Your charm will help you excel.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

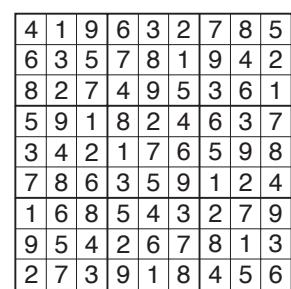
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

2013 OSCAR NOMINATIONS

L	D	K	I	E	A	N	R	H	T	U	O
I	E	J	O	I	N	E	V	E	T	S	A
N	N	S	A	O	F	I	E	L	D	H	S
C	I	I	M	N	B	E	A	S	T	S	I
O	A	T	A	I	G	Y	O	D	O	N	E
L	H	Z	I	T	S	O	A	F	I	U	N
N	C	E	S	D	S	E	P	L	P	V	N
H	N	R	E	W	E	A	R	X	P	I	A
W	U	O	D	A	A	E	H	A	I	E	C
A	T	N	D	A	V	L	C	B	N	H	E
T	I	A	T	L	N	I	L	G	A	L	G
M	L	I	F	S	I	R	I	N	S	O	C
S	E	S	C	O	P	E	R	S	A	T	H
I	E	C	N	E	R	W	A	L	E	Z	N
L	E	A	H	C	I	M	A	M	O	U	R

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Adams, Amour, Ang Lee, Anne, Argo, Beasts, Cast, Chastain, Cooper, Daniel, Dark, David, Django, Edit, Field, Film, Hugh, Hunt, Lawrence, Lead, Les Misérables, Life of Pi, Lincoln, List, Lose, Master, Michael, Phoenix, Picture, Playbook, Riva, Role, Silver Linings, Sound, Southern, Steven, Thirty, Time, Unchained, Wallis, Watts, Wild, Wins, Zero. Yesterday's Answer: **Mascots**

Kiosk THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 26, #25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39 or 40 or 41 or 42 or 43 or 44 or 45 or 46 or 47 or 48 or 49 or 50 or 51 or 52 or 53 or 54 or 55 or 56 or 57 or 58 or 59 or 60 or 61 or 62 or 63 or 64 or 65 or 66 or 67 or 68 or 69 or 70 or 71 or 72 or 73 or 74 or 75 or 76 or 77 or 78 or 79 or 80 or 81 or 82 or 83 or 84 or 85 or 86 or 87 or 88 or 89 or 90 or 91 or 92 or 93 or 94 or 95 or 96 or 97 or 98 or 99 or 100 or 101 or 102 or 103 or 104 or 105 or 106 or 107 or 108 or 109 or 110 or 111 or 112 or 113 or 114 or 115 or 116 or 117 or 118 or 119 or 120 or 121 or 122 or 123 or 124 or 125 or 126 or 127 or 128 or 129 or 130 or 131 or 132 or 133 or 134 or 135 or 136 or 137 or 138 or 139 or 140 or 141 or 142 or 143 or 144 or 145 or 146 or 147 or 148 or 149 or 150 or 151 or 152 or 153 or 154 or 155 or 156 or 157 or 158 or 159 or 160 or 161 or 162 or 163 or 164 or 165 or 166 or 167 or 168 or 169 or 170 or 171 or 172 or 173 or 174 or 175 or 176 or 177 or 178 or 179 or 180 or 181 or 182 or 183 or 184 or 185 or 186 or 187 or 188 or 189 or 190 or 191 or 192 or 193 or 194 or 195 or 196 or 197 or 198 or 199 or 200 or 201 or 202 or 203 or 204 or 205 or 206 or 207 or 208 or 209 or 210 or 211 or 212 or 213 or 214 or 215 or 216 or 217 or 218 or 219 or 220 or 221 or 222 or 223 or 224 or 225 or 226 or 227 or 228 or 229 or 230 or 231 or 232 or 233 or 234 or 235 or 236 or 237 or 238 or 239 or 240 or 241 or 242 or 243 or 244 or 245 or 246 or 247 or 248 or 249 or 250 or 251 or 252 or 253 or 254 or 255 or 256 or 257 or 258 or 259 or 260 or 261 or 262 or 263 or 264 or 265 or 266 or 267 or 268 or 269 or 270 or 271 or 272 or 273 or 274 or 275 or 276 or 277 or 278 or 279 or 280 or 281 or 282 or 283 or 284 or 285 or 286 or 287 or 288 or 289 or 290 or 291 or 292 or 293 or 294 or 295 or 296 or 297 or 298 or 299 or 300 or 301 or 302 or 303 or 304 or 305 or 306 or 307 or 308 or 309 or 310 or 311 or 312 or 313 or 314 or 315 or 316 or 317 or 318 or 319 or 320 or 321 or 322 or 323 or 324 or 325 or 326 or 327 or 328 or 329 or 330 or 331 or 332 or 333 or 334 or 335 or 336 or 337 or 338 or 339 or 340 or 341 or 342 or 343 or 344 or 345 or 346 or 347 or 348 or 349 or 350 or 351 or 352 or 353 or 354 or 355 or 356 or 357 or 358 or 359 or 360 or 361 or 362 or 363 or 364 or 365 or 366 or 367 or 368 or 369 or 370 or 371 or 372 or 373 or 374 or 375 or 376 or 377 or 378 or 379 or 380 or 381 or 382 or 383 or 384 or 38

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

PIGEON

Lakers rout Celtics on emotional night

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dwight Howard had 24 points and 12 rebounds in helping the Los Angeles Lakers to an emotional 113-99 victory over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night in their first game since the death of owner Jerry Buss.

Kobe Bryant added 16 points, Steve Nash and Earl Clark had 14 apiece, and Metta World Peace 12 in a game that surely would have delighted Buss, who always loved to win but especially liked beating the Celtics.

The Lakers won their most recent NBA championship—and last under Buss—in 2010, defeating the Celtics 4-3 in the finals. Buss died Monday at 80 after an 18-month struggle with cancer that had forced him to watch his team's games on TV or an iPad instead of from his suite above the Staples Center court.

Paul Pierce scored 26 points for the Celtics, who fell to 8-17 on the road and lost their third in a row away from home. Courtney Lee added 20 points and Kevin Garnett had 12 on 6-of-14 shooting.

Pacers 125, Knicks 91

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 27 points and Indiana powered its way closer to the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference by beating New York.

David West had 18 points and nine rebounds, and Lance Stephenson added 14 points for Indiana (33-21), which pulled within a half-game of the Knicks for second place in the East.

The Pacers shot 53 percent from the field, scored a season-high point total and had a season-best 28 assists against the Atlantic Division leaders. It was Indiana's largest margin of victory this season and New York's worst loss.

Tyson Chandler led New York with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Carmelo Anthony, the league's No. 2 scorer, finished with 15 points on 7-for-21 shooting.

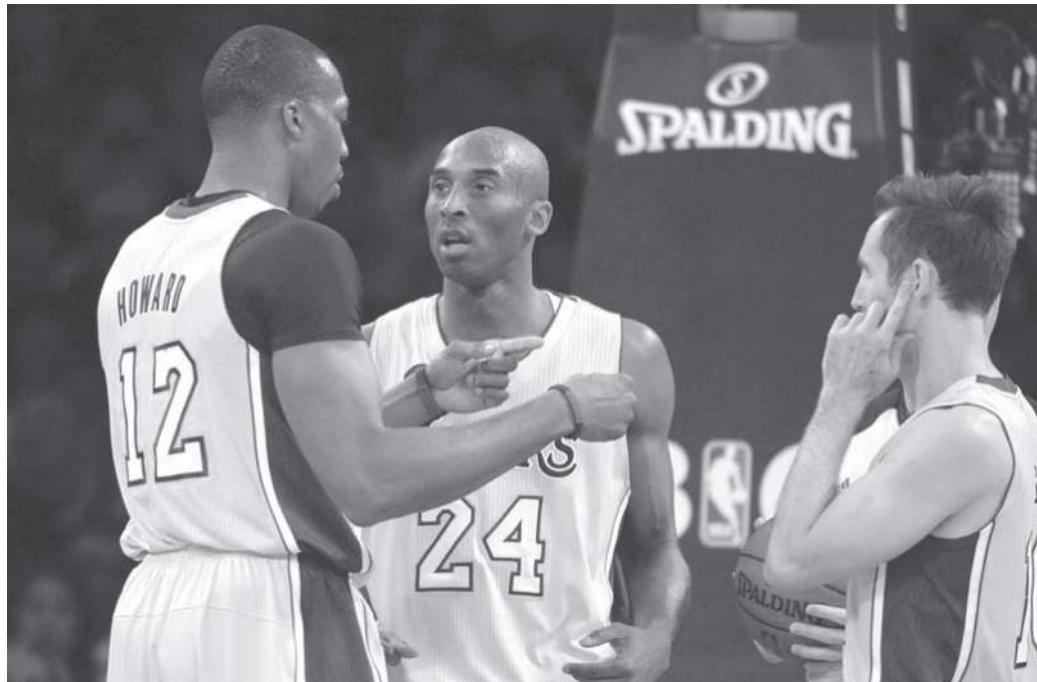
Rockets 122, Thunder 119

In Houston, James Harden scored a career-high 46 points and Jeremy Lin added 29 as the Houston mounted a furious fourth-quarter comeback.

Houston was down by 14 points with about seven minutes left. The Rockets used a 21-4 run to erase the deficit and take a 114-111 lead with 1:46 remaining. Harden stepped back under heavy pressure from Serge Ibaka to sink a 3 to tie it, before Lin connected on one seconds later to give the Rockets their first lead of the second half.

Harden made a bucket before Ibaka made two free throws. Then came another 3 by Lin to extend the lead to 119-113.

Thabo Sefolosha led the Thunder with 28 points and had six 3-pointers, both career highs. His previous career high was 22, which he reached twice, most recently in 2008.



Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard (12) talks with guards Kobe Bryant (24) and Steve Nash during the first half of their NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Westbrook also scored 28 points and added 10 rebounds and eight assists. Kevin Durant had 16 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his second career triple-double.

Heat 103, Hawks 90

In Atlanta, Miami scored the first 13 points of the fourth quarter to erase Atlanta's 10-point lead and the Heat, led by LeBron James' 24 points, ended beat the Hawks 103-90 on Wednesday night to

extend their season-best winning streak to eight games.

Al Horford led the Hawks with 27 points and nine rebounds. Kyle Korver had 12 points, all on 3-pointers.

Nets 97, Bucks 94

In Milwaukee, Deron Williams scored 23 points and Brooklyn escaped after Monta Ellis missed on a chance to tie the game with three foul shots in the final seconds.

The Bucks got to within 96-94 with 6 seconds left on a pair of baskets by Brandon Jennings.

Gerald Wallace inbounded to Williams, but Jennings was draped over his right side. The contact shook the ball loose and it appeared to hit Williams' foot before rolling out of bounds. After review, the Nets had possession. Williams was fouled and made one of two free throws to make it

97-94 with 3.4 seconds left.

Williams then fouled Ellis on a hurried 3. Ellis missed the first two shots, and intentionally missed the third.

The Nets swept the home-and-home with Milwaukee, with both games being decided in the final seconds.

Grizzlies 88, Raptors 82

In Toronto, Zach Randolph had 17 points and 18 rebounds, Mike Conley scored 17 points and Memphis won its fifth straight.

Toronto's Rudy Gay came up short against his former team as the Raptors had their five-game winning streak ended.

Acquired from Memphis in a three-team trade on Jan. 30, Gay had 13 points and nine rebounds but struggled with his shooting, making just five of 15 attempts. He also had a

game-high five turnovers.

Tony Allen scored 12 points and Tayshaun Prince had 11 as the Grizzlies won for the eighth time in nine meetings with the Raptors and posted their fourth straight win in Toronto.

Alan Anderson scored 15 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as the Raptors erased a nine-point deficit to tie the game, but couldn't take the lead.

Cavaliers 105, Hornets 100

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 20 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter to lead Cleveland.

Irving was coming off an impressive showing at All-Star weekend in Houston and scored 11 consecutive points for the Cavaliers as they broke away from an 83-all tie in the final 4:23. His performance brought the crowd at Quicken Loans Arena to its feet during the final minutes and had Irving pumping his fist on several occasions.

The game featured a matchup between the past two No. 1 overall draft picks — Irving and Hornets center Anthony Davis. Irving made 13 of 22 shots and all seven of his free throws while having seven assists. Davis had 12 points and four rebounds.

The Mavericks put away an Orlando team playing on the second night of a back-to-back with a 17-0 fourth-quarter run that restored the double-digit lead they had in the second quarter.

Carter finished with 14 points and had another burst of key 3-pointers to help Dallas retake the lead. Dirk Nowitzki had 12 points and a team-high nine rebounds.

Arron Afflalo led Orlando with 21 points.

Mavericks 111, Magic 96

In Dallas, Shawn Marion and Elton Brand scored 17 apiece, Vince Carter again provided a spark off the bench and Dallas beat Orlando.

The victory snapped a nine-game winning streak for the road team in the series, and the Magic lost for the 26th time in 29 games despite a third-quarter surge that put them in front.

The Mavericks put away an Orlando team playing on the second night of a back-to-back with a 17-0 fourth-quarter run that restored the double-digit lead they had in the second quarter.

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Arron Afflalo led Orlando with 21 points.

Timberwolves 94, 76ers 87

In Minneapolis, Nikola Pekovic had 27 points and tied a career high with 18 rebounds to power Minnesota.

Derrick Williams had 17 points and eight rebounds and Andrei Kirilenko added 15 points and five assists in his return from a thigh injury for the Timberwolves, who won for the fourth time in their last 20 games.

Evan Turner scored 17 points and Jrue Holiday scored 16 after making his All-Star debut on Sunday for the 76ers, who couldn't come up with an answer for Pekovic in the paint in a rough and tumble game. Philadelphia has lost seven straight road games and has won just six times away from home all season, the third fewest wins in the NBA.

Pistons 105, Bobcats 99

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Greg Monroe scored 10 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, stepping up with Brandon Knight on the bench nursing a hyperextended right knee, to lead Detroit.

Knight had 21 points before injuring his knee late in the third quarter. Monroe then took over, finishing with seven rebounds and seven assists as the Pistons denied the Bobcats their first back-to-back wins since November.

Jose Calderon finished with 17 points for Detroit.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 24 points, and Ramon Sessions had 18 points and eight assists. Byron Mullens added 15 points for the Bobcats, who have the worst record in the NBA.

Source: Rockets trade with Suns, Kings

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets have reached separate agreements on trades that will send Patrick Patterson, Cole Aldrich and Toney Douglas to Sacramento and Marcus Morris to Phoenix, a person familiar with the situation said Wednesday.

The Rockets will receive Thomas Robinson, the No. 5 pick in last year's draft, Francisco Garcia and Tyler Honeycutt from the Kings, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced and was still pending league approval.

In the other deal, the person said the Rockets will receive a future second-round pick from the Suns in exchange for Morris, who will join his twin older brother, Markieff, on the Phoenix roster.

"If I was to be traded, that's where I would want to go," Marcus Morris said outside the Rockets' locker room. "I think Houston knew that. That's all I did was talk about my brother and how happy I was to play

with him. I'm excited. That's all I can say."

Patterson, Aldrich and Douglas walked out of the Toyota Center just as Houston was starting its game against Oklahoma City, on the eve of the trading deadline. The Rockets came into the game holding the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference and the moves were unexpected.

The short-handed Rockets heard the news only 20 minutes before tipoff.

"It was definitely the weirdest game I've ever played in," said Houston forward Chandler Parsons. "It was hard to focus, it was hard to block (out) four friends leaving."

Houston rallied from 14 points down to beat the Thunder 122-119.

"A lot of distractions before the game," said James Harden, who scored a career-high 46 points. "I just rallied the guys together and told them to focus in on every play. It was going to be a tough game for us, but we had to really focus in on the

small, detailed things. The guys did a phenomenal job."

The 6-foot-9 Patterson had started 38 games for Houston this season and was the Rockets' fourth-leading scorer, averaging 11.6 points. Douglas was acquired in the offseason in a trade with New York and he played in 49 games backing up Jeremy Lin. The 6-11 Aldrich, acquired in the James Harden trade with Oklahoma City just before the season, averaged 1.7 points in 30 games for Houston this season.

Sacramento had high hopes for the 6-10 Robinson, but he's disappointed so far, averaging only 4.8 points and 4.7 rebounds in 16 minutes per game. His most notable NBA moment might have come when he elbowed Detroit's Jonas Jerebko in the neck during a game in November. Robinson was ejected and suspended two games by the NBA.

Kings general manager Geoff Petrie had hinted that he'd only make minor moves before the trade deadline because of the

pending purchase agreement that could move the franchise to Seattle next season.

Marcus Morris had played in all but one of Houston's games this season, making 17 starts. He was averaging 8.6 points and 4.1 rebounds per game. The Suns took Markieff with the 13th pick in 2011 draft and Marcus was right behind him again, going to Houston at No. 14.

Morris was all smiles about the deal on Wednesday night, even though the Suns entered their game against Golden State with the worst record in the West (18-36).

"It's my first trade," Morris said. "All I kept hearing was, it's a business. It happens. I mean, it does happen. I'm excited to see where my career can go from here."

Suns coach Lindsey Hunter wouldn't talk about the deal specifically, but acknowledged that Phoenix is building for the future.

"We're trying to get better," he said. "We're trying to build a foundation of something that we hope will last."

Police add more confusion to Oscar Pistorius case

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—The prosecution case against Oscar Pistorius began to unravel Wednesday with revelations of a series of police blunders and the lead investigator's admission that authorities have no evidence challenging the double-amputee Olympian's claim he killed his girlfriend accidentally.

Detective Hilton Botha's often confused testimony left prosecutors rubbing their heads in frustration as he misjudged distances and said testosterone—one banned for professional athletes in some cases—was found at the scene, only to be later contradicted by the prosecutor's office.

The second day of what was supposed to be a mere bail hearing almost resembled a full-blown trial for the 26-year-old runner, with his lawyer, Barry Roux, tearing into Botha's testimony step by step during cross examination.

Police, Botha acknowledged, left a 9 mm slug from the barrage that killed Reeva Steenkamp inside a toilet and lost track of illegal ammunition found inside the house. And the detective himself walked through the crime scene without wearing protective shoe covers, potentially contaminating the area.

Authorities, Roux asserted, were selectively taking "every piece of evidence to try to extract the most possibly nega-

tive connotation and present it to the court."

The case has riveted South Africa, with journalists and the curious crowding into the brick-walled courtroom where Pistorius, dubbed the Blade Runner for his prosthetic legs, faces a charge of premeditated murder in the Valentine's Day slaying.

Pistorius says he mistook Steenkamp for an intruder and shot her out of fear, while prosecutors say he planned the killing and attacked her as she cowered behind a locked bathroom door.

The day seemed to start out well for the prosecution, with Botha offering new details of the shooting that appeared to call into question Pistorius' account of the moments leading up to the 29-year-old model's death.

Ballistic evidence, he said, showed the bullets that killed her had been fired from a height, supporting the prosecution's assertion that Pistorius was wearing prosthetic legs when he took aim at the bathroom door. The athlete has maintained he was standing only on his stumps, and felt vulnerable and frightened as he opened fire from a low position.

Projecting a diagram of the bedroom and the bathroom, prosecutor Gerrie Nel said it showed Pistorius had to walk past his bed to get to the bathroom and could not have done so without seeing that Steenkamp was not asleep there.

"There's no other way of getting there," Nel said in disputing Pistorius' claim that he had no idea Steenkamp was no longer in bed when he pumped four bullets into the bathroom door, striking her with three.

Botha backed the prosecutor up, saying the holster for Pistorius' 9 mm pistol was found under the left side of the bed, where Steenkamp slept, and it would have been impossible for Pistorius to get the gun without checking to see if she was there.

"I believe that he knew that Reeva was in the bathroom and he shot four shots through the door," the detective said.

Botha described how bullets struck Steenkamp in the head and shattered her right arm and hip, eliciting sobs from Pistorius, who held his head in hands.

However, when asked if Steenkamp's body showed "any pattern of defensive wounds" or bruising from an assault, Botha said "no." He again responded "no" when asked if investigators found anything inconsistent with Pistorius' version of events, though he later said nothing contradicted the police version either.

Testimony began with the prosecutor telling the court that before the shooting, a neighbor heard "nonstop" shouting between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. at Pistorius' upscale home in a gated community in the capital, Pretoria.

However, Botha later said under cross examination that

the witness was in a house 600 yards (550 meters) away, possibly out of earshot. He cut that estimate in half when questioned again by the prosecutor, as confusion reigned for much of his testimony.

At one point, Botha told the court that police found syringes and two boxes of testosterone in Pistorius' bedroom—testimony the prosecution later withdrew, saying it was too early to identify the substance, which was still being tested.

"It is not certain (what it is) until the forensics" are comple-

ed, Medupe Simasiku, a spokesman for South Africa's National Prosecution Agency, told The Associated Press. It's not clear if it was "a legal or an illegal medication for now."

The defense also disputed the claim. "It is an herbal remedy," Roux said. "It is not ... a banned substance."

Still, Botha offered potentially damaging details about Pistorius' past, saying the athlete was once involved in an accidental shooting at a restaurant in Johannesburg and asked someone else "to take the rap."

The runner also threatened men on two separate occasions, Botha said, allegedly telling one he'd "break his legs."

The detective said police found two iPhones in Pistorius' bathroom and two BlackBerrys in his bedroom, and none had been used to phone for help. Guards at the gated community did call the athlete, Botha said, and all he said was: "I'm all right," as he wept uncontrollably.

Roux later suggested that a fifth phone, not collected by the police, was used by Pistorius to call for help.

Armstrong won't interview with USADA

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Lance Armstrong will not do a tell-all interview under oath with the agency that exposed his performance-enhancing drug use and took his seven Tour de France titles.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency had told Armstrong he would have to reveal all knowns about doping in cycling—a process officials expected would take several days—if he wanted to reduce his lifetime ban from sports.

Wednesday was the latest deadline for Armstrong to decide on USADA's offer. After negotiating with the agency for two months, he refused.

Armstrong attorney Tim Herman said the cyclist "will not participate in USADA's efforts to selectively conduct American prosecutions that only demon-

ize selected individuals while failing to address the 95 percent of the sport over which USADA has no jurisdiction."

USADA chief executive Travis Tygart said the agency had expected Armstrong would agree to talk and would be "moving on" without him.

"Over the last few weeks he has led us to believe that he wanted to come in and assist USADA, but was worried of potential criminal and civil liability if he did so," Tygart said. "Today we learned from the media that Mr. Armstrong is choosing not to come in and be truthful and that he will not take the opportunity to work toward righting his wrongs in sport."

Herman has said Armstrong is willing to participate in an international effort to clean up

cycling, an effort that has broken down in spats between the International Cycling Union, the sport's governing body, and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

"He will be the first man through the door, and once inside will answer every question, at an international tribunal formed to comprehensively address pro cycling, an almost exclusively European sport," Herman said.

For more than a decade, Armstrong denied using performance-enhancing drugs. But last year, USADA released a report that detailed extensive doping on his Tour de France-winning teams and stripped him of those victories. Armstrong then admitted last month in an interview with Oprah Winfrey that he doped to win those races.

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Maplas extends streak in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Maplas La Mani stretched its win streak to three after pounding Servitek, 83-59, in their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Maplas dominated Servitek right from the get-go and withstood the latter's third quarter rally to keep its winning run that started on Feb. 2 when the former survived Susupe in overtime, 86-84. Maplas, which dropped its debut against Gualo Rai, 65-66, then got its second win via another close game versus LD Prime, 66-65.

Against Servitek, Maplas raced to a 17-5 lead in the opening quarter with Dennis



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Maplas La Mani's Arthur Rivera drives against Servitek's Mican Bench, left, and Anthony Webb during their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WELL-WISHERS

From Page 32

our players will give every opponent a tough game," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

"Our NMI men's delegation will write a new chapter in the history of NMIFA by competing in our first AFC tournament. Entering competition at this level was only a dream when NMIFA was founded in 2005. We've come a long way since then. Our national players and coaches have logged in countless hours of training and are ready to take the challenge. I'd like to wish all them all the very best as we stand proud and watch with excite-

ment and in anticipation from Saipan," NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka added.

The Blue Ayuyus will be leaving Saipan early tomorrow morning to compete in the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup that will be held in Kathmandu from March 2 to 6. From Saipan, they will go to Manila for a connecting flight and a scrimmage on Saturday evening against the Meralco Sparks, who will be banned by seven Philippine National Team members. The CNMI strikers will then leave Manila on Sunday for another connecting flight to China before arriving in Nepal in the evening.

In Kathmandu, the Blue Ayuyus will play the host

first on March 2 at 5:30pm (around 10pm Saipan time) at the Dashrath Stadium. The CNMI's second game will be against Palestine on March 4 at 2:30pm and the last will be versus Bangladesh, also at 2:30pm on March 6.

The CNMI, Nepal, Palestine, and Bangladesh comprise Group D of the qualifier. Four other groups will have their separate competitions next month and the winner of each group and the two second best-placed teams in the qualifiers will get entries to the 2014 AFC Challenge Cup, which will be held from March 8 to 23, 2014 in Maldives. The champion of the Challenge Cup will then qualify for the 2015 AFC Asian Cup

onds, way faster than her seed time of 1:13.43.

In the boys 50m breaststroke, more swimmers received PBTs with SSC's Akira Kadokura leading five others. Kadokura timed in a field best of 53.96 seconds, eclipsing her 56.47 seconds, while Tsunami's Mark Maestro (54.28 seconds) and Kenshiro Yanai (54.87 seconds) and SSC's Ichiro Borja (56.57 seconds), Jinnosuke Suzuki (1:00.39), and Richard Villagomez (1:15.14) also set new PBTs.

In another sprint event—the 50m freestyle—nine swimmers gained PBTs. In the girls U8

division, SSC's Susan Villagomez made the lone PBT with her 1:06.82 (from 1:09.07) and had the second fastest time behind teammate Jinie Thompson (59.56 seconds).

In the 9 to 10 race, Aika Watanabe placed only second to Jin Ju Thompson (41.90 seconds), but the former's 47.40 second was good enough for a new PBT, eclipsing her 48.38 seconds. Tsunami's Kathrine Ilalih and Chentsova recorded the two other PBTs in the girls 50m freestyle race after clocking in at 44.97 seconds and 30.52 seconds, respectively.

In the boys U8 division, Tsu-

a private company in Japan that is involved on the building and management of futsal and beach soccer facilities and Sakaguchi met with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association to express his company's desire to help NMIFA improve or built facilities.

"Better facilities help produce better players," Sakaguchi said.

Kaneko, who also works for Futsal Point, added having adequate facility will also

Cortez sparking the team's good start, scoring their first six points and outgunning the entire Servitek crew. Servitek only made two field goals in the first period off Don Brennan's triple and Rio "Pacman" Alvarez's 2-pointer.

Maplas' advantage then ballooned to 20 at the break, 36-16, as Servitek still could not get more players involved on the team's offense. Again, only two players lit up the scoreboard for Servitek with Anthony Webb drilling three triples and Noel Mateo nailing a short jumper, while Maplas got contributions from six different players.

In the second half, Servitek made a little headway when it sliced the lead to single digits in the first half of the third period, 34-43, behind Mican Bench and Webb's baskets. Bench, who was sluggish in the opening

where the zone's top-ranked Japan, North and South Korea, and Australia have already gained tickets.

With the CNMI competing in the AFC men's event for the first time, NMIFA executive committee member Joseph Villagomez said the tournament is a good chance to show the Commonwealth's brand of football.

"It's a welcome opportunity to our players. We will be able to introduce CNMI football to the rest of the region. We will be able to show them that we have a lot of talented and promising players and we can compete in their level," Villagomez said.

The CNMI Team is composed of 20 players, who

nami's Juhn Tenorio and Hans Xu finished in the Top 2 and also recorded PBTs with the former posting 42.46 seconds and the latter breaking the one-minute barrier, too, with his 57.28 seconds.

In the boys U10, Michail Villagomez led seven others and also hit a PBT with his 43.39 seconds, more than one second faster than his old mark of 44.81 seconds. Tsunami's Tichicus Xu placed only fifth in the race, but got a PBT (55.61 seconds), while SSC's Kento Akimaru had the fastest and a PBT in the 11 to 12 age group with his 30.96 seconds.

encourage more players to try the sport.

Meanwhile, Sakaguchi, who played for the Japan U19 National Team in 1992 and suited up for the Urawa Reds in the prestigious J League from 1993 to 2000, wished the CNMI Team good luck, as it compete in the AFC for the first time.

"I hope CNMI players will gain a lot of experience that will help them in the future, as they compete in more AFC events," Sakaguchi said.

half, failing to nail a single field goal, scored Servitek's first 9 points, while Webb added 5 and three other players also drained at least one basket each to keep their team in the game.

Meanwhile, the Susupe-LD Prime tiff in the late night match was rained out with over three minutes left in the third and the former ahead by double digits. It was LD Prime's (1-5) second suspended game for the week, as its duel against the ICS Shooters last Monday was also postponed due to rain with the latter ahead, 10-8, 3:01 remaining in the first quarter.

A 12-2 start in the fourth quarter gave Maplas its biggest lead and sealed the doom for Servitek, which absorbed its third loss in four games. Cortez and Mico Usi teamed up in the fourth quarter assault, scoring 6 points each.

Cortez went on pace Maplas with his 18 points, while the

Usi brothers added 14 apiece. Webb, Brennan, and Bench top-scored for Servitek with 12 markers each.

Meanwhile, the Susupe-LD Prime tiff in the late night match was rained out with over three minutes left in the third and the former ahead by double digits. It was LD Prime's (1-5) second suspended game for the week, as its duel against the ICS Shooters last Monday was also postponed due to rain with the latter ahead, 10-8, 3:01 remaining in the first quarter.

Maplas La Mani 83 – Cortez 18, R. Usi 14, M. Usi 14, Aguilar 8, Claveria 7, Morales 7, Odicia 5, Anicete 4, Rivera 2.

Servitek 59 – Webb 12, Brennan 12, Bench 12, Alvarez 8, Matto 4m Detera 4, Esconde 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-5, 36-16, 57-41, 83-59.

hann Noetzel. Former Olympian and Hong Kong football star will coach the squad and will be assisted Chi Ming Tang and Ho Man Chen. Wesley M. Bogdan, Norman del Rosario, and Pamela Carhill are also part of the delegation.

"We are aiming to bring good results from Nepal," said Noetzel, a former pro in the MLS and English Premier League and will be playing for the CNMI for the first time.

YANKEES

From Page 32

Both teams put up a run in the first inning as Yankees lead-off man Ben Jones reached and scored off errors, after which IT&E's John Reyes and Juan Maratita hooked up with a couple of hits to save face.

The Yankees then moved in front, 4-1, in the top of the fourth inning off two hits and an error and added another trio of runs in the fifth off a string of four hits.

The Fielders did not wilt in the late innings, however, and tightened up its defense in an effort to try and claw back into the game.

They hit pay dirt in the bottom of the sixth with a two-out double by Maratita and an error, and then pulled to within a couple of runs in the bottom of the seventh inning thanks to a blip in the defense by its rival, but could not get over the hump down the homestretch.

Yankees reliever Dave Camacho found his rhythm when he stepped on the mound to start the eighth inning and hung on to secure the save as his teammate Chris Camacho earned a nice win, giving up two runs, one earned, through six innings off five hits and a walk with seven strikeouts.

Yankees' Greg Camacho batted 3-for-3 with two RBIs, a run, and a base on balls.

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	32	19	.627	–
Brooklyn	33	22	.560	1
Boston	28	26	.519	5 1/2
Philadelphia	22	30	.423	10 1/2
Toronto	22	33	.400	12

Southeast Division

Miami	37	14	.725	–
Atlanta	29	23	.558	8 1/2
Washington	15	37	.288	22 1/2
Orlando	15	39	.278	23 1/2
Charlotte	13	41	.241	25 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	33	21	.611	–
Chicago	31	22	.585	1 1/2
Milwaukee	26	27	.491	6 1/2
Detroit	22	34	.393	12
Cleveland	17	37	.315	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	43	12	.782	–
Memphis	35	18	.660	7
Houston	30	26	.536	13 1/2
Dallas	24	29	.453	18
New Orleans	19	36	.345	24

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	39	15	.722	–
Denver	34	21	.618	5 1/2
Utah	31	24	.564	8 1/2
Portland	25	29	.463	14
Minnesota	20	31	.392	17 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	39	17	.696	–
Golden State	31	23	.574	7
L.A. Lakers	26	29	.473	12 1/2
Sacramento	19	36	.345	19 1/2</td

Ayuyus fend off Blazers in boys varsity, 73-51

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Kagman High School Ayuyus

overcame the Eucon International School Blazers, 73-51, in Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys varsity basketball matchup at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The win improved the Ayuyus' win-loss record to 4-3, while the Blazers endured its sixth defeat in seven tries.

While KHS put out its fire in the main event, the Agape Christian School Torchbearers managed to burn the former in the junior varsity pairing, 46-38.

Agape evened its card to 4-4 in the junior division, while KHS dipped to a slate of 2-4.

Results of last night's matches are forthcoming.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Kagman High School Ayuyus' Ohmar Nawaz cashes in on a fast-break layup against Eucon International School Blazers during their MISO varsity boys basketball matchup Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The remaining varsity standings list undefeated defending varsity champion Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays (5-0) leading the MHS Dolphins (5-2) and the Mount Carmel School Knights (1-5).

Remaining junior division standings list the unbeaten MHS (7-0) way out in front ahead of SSHS (2-3) and SIS (0-4) with MHS (3-1) also leading the freshmen pecking order over KHS (2-2). SSHS (1-2).

Ohmar Nawaz held the hot hand for KHS in the opening 10 minutes of the varsity match and splashed in a trio of long-range strikes for 11 points to put his Ayuyus in front, 21-13.

His teammate Jresses Santos then tallied 8 markers in the second quarter to preserve a 35-27 favor at halftime as the team did a good job containing Eucon mainstay Allen Yu to just 12 points at midpoint.

They then held the Blazers to single digits through the third quarter and pulled away, 51-36, heading into the final period and had little trouble securing the victory.

Jason Lampkin led the charge after intermission with 7 points as Santos rang in a couple of treys for 12 markers in the closing frame.

The latter finished with a team-high 26 points, while Eucon's Yu managed 24 on the short end.

At the start of the junior match, the Torchbearers' Zeyue Lin made it to the line for three freebies complemented with a field goal to give Agape a 7-3 edge.

He and his teammate Xi Huang then each added a pair of baskets in the second quarter to keep the team in control, 19-15, at the half.

KHS spread the ball around well in the second exchange, but the Torchbearers always seemed to find an answer and maintained a 34-28 spread heading into crunch time.

Jonathan Santos led a rally cry by the junior Ayuyus in the third quarter with 8 points though it was thwarted by dual effort of 11 points by Agape's Li and Tao Yang.

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8-point chunk in the last stand, but Agape held strong and closed it out.

Lin finished with a team-high 16 points for the Torchbearers, while KHS' Santos led all scorers with 19.

VARSITY

KHS 73 – Je. Santos 26, Nawaz 20, Lampkin 11, Malwelbug 4, Hocog 4, Butters 4, Jo. Santos 2, A. Santos 2.

EIS 51 – Yu 24, Ren 15, Zang 4, Zhou 4, Li 2, Wang 2.
Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 35-27, 51-36, 73-51.

JUNIOR VARSITY

ACS 46 – Lin 16, Yang 12, Puno 9, Huang 4, Ou 2, Me Li 2, Mi Li 1.

KHS 38 – Jo. Santos 19, Taitano 6, Muna 4, Evangelista 3, Arceo 2, Salas 2, Sakisat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 7-3, 19-15, 34-28, 46-38.

Lady Eagles finish girls v-ball season in 1st place

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles secured first place in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's 2013 girls volleyball regular season after capping a pair of wins in Wednesday's final round of pairings held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Eagles won 15 out of 16 matches this season and finished three games ahead of the nine-team field in front of second-ranked Saipan International School Lady Green Geckos (12-4), MHS Lady Blue Dolphins (12-4), Mount Carmel School Lady Knights (11-5), SIS Lady White Geckos (10-6), Marianas Baptist Academy Lady Stormz (7-9), MHS Lady Yellow Dolphins (2-13), Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus (2-13), and Saipan Southern



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan International School Lady White Geckos' Dan Hee-Christine Kim, left, bashes an overhand return past Marianas Baptist Academy Lady Stormz's Jacinia Richards during Wednesday's MISO girls volleyball matchup at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

High School Lady Manta Rays (1-15) who finally broke into the win column in last Wednesday's closing round.

GCA swiftly defeated SSHS (25-15, 25-16) and SIS Green (25-11, 25-16) to earn a first round bye in this weekend's dou-

ble elimination postseason, while SSHS got a taste of victory over MHS Yellow in its second face off, 25-12, 25-21.

In addition, MCS upset MHS Blue in two hard-earned sets, 25-21, 25-18, while SIS Green downed MHS Yellow, 25-11,

25-19; and SIS White survived a three-set ordeal over MBA.

The Lady White Geckos took the opening set, 25-15, and though the Lady Stormz responded in the second exchange, 25-11, to even the count, SIS White bit down in the deciding set and took the win, 15-11.

The playoffs begin today at MHS Gym starting at 2:30pm and will continue tomorrow morning starting at 9am. Rota and Tinian high schools will be appearing in this year's competition as the respective third and fifth seeds on the bracket.

MISO organizers flipped a coin to determine the visiting teams' starting positions.

SIS Green won the tiebreaker with MHS Blue via total point differential, 116-106. MHS Yellow defeated KHS via forfeit early on in the season (Jan. 8) and was thus issued the nod in the rankings as the pair's second matchup (Jan. 29) was cancelled and never made up.

Faichuuuk defends Chuukese track and Field title

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Faichuuuk reigned supreme once again in the 2nd CNMI-Chuukese Track & Field Championship held last Saturday at the Oleai Sport Complex.

Faichuuuk tallied 456 total points to beat out rival Fanapi (429), while the Tonoas (408) and Weno (373) filed in at third and fourth place, respectively.

The event was organized by the Ach-Chuukese CNMI Association in conjunction with the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services and Northern Marianas Athletics.

Male and female individual prizes were issued to U14 runners Jeffrey Dela Cruz of Weno and Jessme Jones of Dublon; U18 runners John Santy and Riella Ichiuo,



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

From left, representatives from the 2013 CNMI Chuukese Track & Field Championship winner Faichuuuk, runner-up Fanapi, third place Tonoas, and fourth place Weno pose for a photo after receiving the team trophies during the awards ceremony last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Track & Field.

both of Fanapi; and open division runners Jesus Iguel and Rachel Abrams, both of Weno.

The athletes received cell phones and new running spikes, provided by IT&E and Robin Sapong.

The meet consisted of various male and female 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m 800m, and 1,500m runs and relays among its U14, U18, and open divisions.

According to event coordinator Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel the

Ach-Chuukese CNMI Association plans on holding additional events this coming summer, which will likely feature volleyball and basketball among other potential activities and plans to continue its centerpiece track and field competition as an annual event every February.

The group wants to express its gratitude to main sponsor DCCA-DYS as well as NMA's Sapong and Elias Rangamar, IT&E, Price Costco, Safety 1st, Richard and Marian Pierce, Joshua Berger, D&Q International Distributors, Dial Rent-to-Own, McDonald's of Saipan, the Department of Public Safety's Emergency Medical Staff, and all of the volunteers for helping make the event possible.

Last year, Faichuuuk took first place by a very close margin over Fanapi, 460-450; with Weno (373) and the Southern Islands (269) placing third and fourth.

Ohmar Nawaz held the hot hand for KHS in the opening 10 minutes of the varsity match and splashed in a trio of long-range strikes for 11 points to put his Ayuyus in front, 21-13.

His teammate Jresses Santos then tallied 8 markers in the second quarter to preserve a 35-27 favor at halftime as the team did a good job containing Eucon mainstay Allen Yu to just 12 points at midpoint.

They then held the Blazers to single digits through the third quarter and pulled away, 51-36, heading into the final period and had little trouble securing the victory.

Jason Lampkin led the charge after intermission with 7 points as Santos rang in a couple of treys for 12 markers in the closing frame.

The latter finished with a team-high 26 points, while Eucon's Yu managed 24 on the short end.

At the start of the junior match, the Torchbearers' Zeyue Lin made it to the line for three freebies complemented with a field goal to give Agape a 7-3 edge.

He and his teammate Xi Huang then each added a pair of baskets in the second quarter to keep the team in control, 19-15, at the half.

KHS spread the ball around well in the second exchange, but the Torchbearers always seemed to find an answer and maintained a 34-28 spread heading into crunch time.

Jonathan Santos led a rally cry by the junior Ayuyus in the third quarter with 8 points though it was thwarted by dual effort of 11 points by Agape's Li and Tao Yang.

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NMIFA YOUTH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Name: Christine Aninzo

Age Group: U15

Team: Tan Holdings FC

Position: Center defender

Jersey No.: #15

Years of Playing Experience:

3 years

Village: Koblerville

School: Marianas High School

Grade: 9th

Favorite Player or Team: Mia Hamm



Name: Mareko Tekopua

Age Group: U15

Team: Tan Holdings FC

Position: Defender

Jersey No.: #3

Years of Playing Experience:

3 years

Village: San Antonio

School: San Antonio Elementary School

Grade: 6th

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: I wasn't so interested in soccer at first. I just joined the team because my friends thought it would be cool. But after playing and practicing with the team, I started to get the hang of it and it soon became a huge part of me.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I love experiencing failures and victories and laughing and playing with the people I love. I always look forward to playing soccer every season.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: I am a member of a team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion. —Mia Hamm

"She is a very aggressive player and seems to never get tired. She has good relationships with her teammates and she gives 100 percent effort everytime she is on the pitch"—Christine's coach Irish Pagarao

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: My friends got me into football.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: It is a fun sport.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: I am currently trying out for the CNMI U14 National Team and I am hoping to make it to the team to compete in Beijing, China in April this year.

Q: What other message can



**Lakers rout
Celtics on
emotional
night**
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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Ayuyus fend off
Blazers in boys
varsity, 73-51**
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32 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Well-wishers send off Blue Ayuyus



Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider, seated fifth from left, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan, seated sixth from left, join members and officials of the CNMI Men's National Team for a group photo during a send-off dinner last night at the Kanoa Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Well-wishers led by no less than newly sworn in Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider joined the Nepal-bound CNMI Men's National Team in a send-off dinner held last night at the Seaside Hall of the Kanoa Resort.



"We are so proud of you. I know you will be good ambassadors of the CNMI. For those of us who will not be able to join you in Nepal, we will be cheering for you back home and we wish you all the best," said Hofschneider, who led the ceremonial turnover of the CNMI flag to the team.

Also present at the send-off dinner were Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials, members, and officers of various local clubs, representatives of sponsors IT&E and Marianas Health Services, and other supporters.

"We would like to commend our players for showing tremendous commitment and hard work since they started training in September. We may be the newest team competing in Nepal, but I know

See WELL-WISHERS on Page 30

Tammy resets age group mark

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Miku Tammy posted the lone CNMI age group mark made in Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's third meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last Saturday.

The Tsunami Saipan swimmer timed in at 10:41.53 in the 800m freestyle, crushing the old girls 9 to 10 CNMI age group mark (11:49.95), which she incidentally logged on Jan. 21, 2012. Tammy is only 10 years old, but her record in her age group is faster than the girls 11 to 12 mark (10:51.15), which Saipan Swim Club's Myana Welch tallied on Nov. 10, 2011.

Besides Tammy, Victoria



Miku Tammy, seen here getting ready for a race last month, reset a CNMI age group record in the 800m freestyle during last Saturday's NMISF meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
See TAMMY on Page 30

Chentsova also raced in the 800m freestyle and gained one of the 25 PBTs recorded in the last four events of the weekend meet. Chentsova completed her longest race of the day at the 10:34.21 mark, shaving more than 25 seconds from his old PBT of 11:00.94.

Duplicating Chentsova's feat in the 800m were Tsunami Saipan's Hiroto and Ryuto Yanai. The older Hiroto clocked in at 10:40.78, surpassing his PBT of 11:05.24, while Ryuto timed in at 11:29.27 to shatter his previous PBT of 11:50.63.

Not to be outdone was Ryuto and Hiroto's oldest brother Kaito, who finished the 1,500m freestyle event in 19:03.82, more than a second faster than his old PBT of 20:05.21. Kaito's fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Kensuke Kimura and Takumi Sugie also set new PBTs after posting 17:45.41 (from

Japanese to challenge Nationals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Futsal Point chairman Kenji Sakaguchi, left, and Kaz Kaneko pose for a photo as they arrive on Saipan yesterday morning to meet with CNMI football officials and assist the Japan Soccer School players in their friendly game against the CNMI Men's National Team.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Players from Japan Soccer College will be giving the CNMI Men's National Team its last scrimmage at home before competing in Nepal, as they collide tonight at 7pm at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The visiting team arrived early this morning and will be fielding 30 players, who are 19 to 25 years old, in the scrimmage. Also joining the squad are two coaches and seven trainers.

"These players are enrolled in a two-year program at Japan Soccer College. They will start their season in April and they have been training indoors, as it's

See JAPANESE on Page 30

Yankees clip Fielders, 7-5

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees nabbed its third straight win since opening day after beating the IT&E Fielders (0-1), 7-5, in Wednesday's Saipan Major League Baseball Association matchup at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ball Field.

IT&E fell short in its first outing and lines up alongside St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (0-1) and D-9ers (0-1) in the win-loss standings behind the defending champions from the north and the 2012 runner-up Tan Holdings Brewers (1-1) with Ol' Aces still awaiting its debut, which may be tonight at 6:30pm. An updated game schedule is forthcoming.

See YANKEES on Page 30



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
IT&E Fielders shortstop Juan Maratita steps on second base and throws over to first for a double play against Saipan Stevedore Company-Northern Yankees during their SML matchup Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.